

A MUSICAL JOURNEY

Community Breakfast

Invitation to follow

**Sunday, 10:00 A.M.
December 9, 2018**

L'CHAYIM

Published by the **Jewish Federation**
Lee and Charlotte Counties

www.JewishFederationLCC.org

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Improving on the work we do

By **Brian Simon**, Federation President

I've been meeting with friends in the Jewish community over the past few weeks to talk about Federation. I went to them asking for input – what they think of us, what we're doing well, where we're lacking.



■ **Brian Simon**

The feedback has been honest. In the theme of the High Holidays, the comments read like the confessional prayer "Al Het."

The Federation has missed opportunities to provide some of the services our community needs. We have missed opportunities to be more integrated with the syna-

gogues. We have failed to get our message out so that everyone at least is aware of what good we are doing.

It's exactly what I was hoping to hear. I think there are actionable ideas that will come from these meetings.

The board has identified three areas where we concentrate our efforts: 1) Jewish cultural events, 2) Jewish Family Services, and 3) Israel advocacy.

What I'm hearing is that people want more opportunities to interact with other Jews in a non-religious, social setting (Jewish cultural events). People want more help from Jewish Family Services, and they want opportunities to help others. These are good problems to have.

In the coming weeks, we will be

putting into action some of the ideas that came from these meetings. I'm excited to see what happens. I'm very pleased with the work that Executive Director Alan Isaacs, Programming Director Debbie Sanford and all of our staff and volunteers have done. I think we're all doing a tremendous amount of good in the community.

I'd like to ask for your continued help in improving on the work we do. Please help us spread the word about the programs you enjoy. Please help us to identify people in need. Please share your feedback on what we're doing well – and not as well. You are welcome to leave a message for me at the Federation office or send me an email at brian.simon@utexas.edu. I look forward to hearing from you. ▲



Federation's Senior Lunch Bunch update



A year after Harvey – a JFNA report



Falafel superstar – recipe by Chef Dalia Hemed



Temple Judea Preschool's new library

SAVE THE DATE

PACESETTERS AND MAJOR GIFTS

November 14, 2018

ALON BEN-GURION

AN EVENING WITH ALON BEN-GURION

Join us as Alon shares historical and personal stories about his grandfather, the late Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and the establishment of Israel.

SPECIAL FEATURE FILM: BEN-GURION, EPILOGUE

For more information contact Debbie Sanford
239.481.4449 or debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org

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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).

L'CHAYIM

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

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NOVEMBER ISSUE
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Friday, October 5

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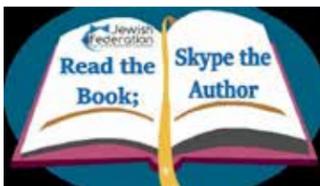
What's Happening

By: Debbie Sanford



• Don't forget to sign up for my weekly Newsletter. Just send me your email address to get up to date Federation & Community information each week.

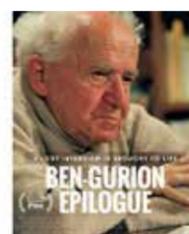
• Last month amazing volunteers helped pack and deliver 215 Rosh Hashanah gift bags to our senior community. Thank You!



• Ready to get your READ ON? We have 3 Read the Book; Skype the Author dates booked which include dinner and a Q&A with the Author. Join us on Wednesdays, October 17, December 19 and February 20. RSVP early so we have enough food. Speaking of which, thank you to our generous dinner sponsor, The Bagel Factory.



• Wednesday, November 14—PaceSetters and Major Gifts Event. "An Evening with Alon Ben-Gurion". Grandson of the late Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, Alon shares historical and personal stories about the legacy of his grandfather and the establishment of the State of Israel. Feature film, Ben-Gurion, Epilogue.



• Save The Date—Sunday, December 9, 2018. 10:00 A.M.—12:00 P.M. The Community Breakfast—A Musical Journey. You will not want to miss this. A throwback of our favorite songs by Jewish Artists, plus a delicious meal including good old fashioned Potato Latkes to celebrate Hanukkah. It is NOT too early to make your reservation, as space is limited.

• The Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida. Opening Day is Sunday, January 13, 2019. We start the afternoon with a VIP Sponsor Reception and will then be joined by Author Beverly Gray—Seduced by Mrs. Robinson followed by the screening of The Graduate. Sponsorships are available. Please call me to learn about some great new sponsor benefits.



Debbie can be reached at: 239.481.4449 or debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org

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visit www.JewishFederationLCC.org.

Senior Lunch Bunch update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

Brookdale Independent Living on College Parkway hosted its second annual Jewish Federation senior luncheon in August. We are grateful for the warm welcome and attention to detail for our seniors, including valet parking. WINK meteorologist Brooke Silverang was the guest speaker and shared information about hurricane preparation and safety. The Q&A following her talk was filled with questions as well as stories about Hurricane Irma. Brookdale appropriately raffled off two hurricane preparation kits complete



Jodi Cohen

with batteries, flashlights and lanterns. The Federation appreciates having such a dedicated community partner in Brookdale and would like to thank Executive Director Randall Johnston



and Marketing Director Susan Scott for their support.

We continue to welcome new people to the Senior Lunch Bunch every month, and it's always a pleasure to watch the group widen the circle so that everyone is included. The free monthly luncheons are a chance for Jewish seniors to be in community together so they can socialize, have a meal, make new friends and stay connected with old friends.

The vibe is friendly, from the moment you walk in and get your name tag, to the goodbyes at the end. While we rotate venues each month, the joy and camaraderie amongst everyone remains steadfast.

If you'd like to attend but don't drive, we have volunteers who provide rides. If you'd like to volunteer to help out at the luncheon, please contact Sherri Zucker at 239.980.5760 or sherriz62@aol.com.▲



NEXT SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH:
Thursday, October 11 at noon
Temple Beth Shalom, 702 SE 24th Ave., Cape Coral
RSVP by October 8 to
Jodi Cohen at 239.481.4449 x2 or jodicohen@jfedlcc.org



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Trip information - coming soon!

UPCOMING FEDERATION EVENTS 2018/19

- OCT. 17** Read the Book; Skype the Author - Author Martin Fletcher "Promised Land" Free and open to the community. A light dairy dinner will be served.
- OCT. 30** Community Leadership Event
- NOV. 14** Pacesetters/Major Gifts - An Evening with Alon Ben-Gurion, grandson of the late Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion.
- DEC. 9** Community Breakfast - "A Musical Journey" featuring your favorite music from Jewish Artists.
- DEC. 19** Read the Book; Skype the Author - Author Peter Golden, "Nothing is Forgotten" Free and open to the community. A light dairy dinner will be served.
- 2019**
- JAN. 13** 2019 Jewish Film Festival Opening Day Event - Jewish Film Festival, Regal Cinemas at Bell Towers Special Guest: Author Beverly Gray, "Seduced by Mrs. Robinson". Feature film, "The Graduate". Special VIP Sponsor Reception. Sponsorship Opportunities Available.
- JAN. 15 - FEB. 12** Jewish Film Festival - Showings are Tuesdays & Thursdays.
- FEB. 18** PJ Library - Presidents Day Fun Day
- FEB. 20** Read the Book; Skype the Author - "TBD" Free and open to the community. A light dairy dinner will be served.
- FEB. 26** Author Event - Alyson Richman, Lakes Library
- MAR. 5** Lion of Judah - Program and Speaker TBD
- MAR. 16** Queen Esther (Adults Only) Masquerade Ball
- APR. 14** PJ Library - Pre-Pesach Party
- MAR. 28** Author Event - B.A. Shapiro, "The Collector's Apprentice" The Alliance for the Arts
- APR. 28** Yom HaShoah Event
- MAY 8** Annual Meeting

STAY TUNED. MORE INFO TO FOLLOW!



AN A NOVEL OF ISRAEL MARTIN FLETCHER

MISS MURPHY

OUR VISION

Jewish Community that is based on Jewish values such as Tzedakah (benevolence), Tikkun Olam (repairing

jewish film festival of southwest florida

PJ Library

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

Well wishes for a speedy recovery to Leah Warshaw
from the Tuesday Mellow Mah Jong ladies

Each month, L'CHAYIM will list your Tributes.
Please send them to Lori Ramos
at the Federation at loriramos@jfedlcc.org.

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

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Together we CAN Make a Difference!

HOW THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES SERVES



Local Jewish Education and Culture

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



Overseas

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



Local Seniors Services

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



Local Case Management Services

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

Local Emergency Services

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



Local Community Services

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



Jewish Community Foundation

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

Joseph Horowitz Israel Travel Grants Available

The Joseph Horowitz Israel Travel Grant is available through the Community Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties.

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

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

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



For more information or an application, visit our website at JewishFederationLCC.org.

A year after Harvey

Last summer saw Hurricanes Harvey, Maria and, here locally, Irma. Our Jewish community joined other communities around the country to help hurricane victims. These funds were directed to our national agency, The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) for disbursement in distressed areas. JFNA works with relief organizations such as the American Red Cross, Nechama and more to assess the needs of the victims and provide support to those who need it most. Here is JFNA's report on Houston, one year later.

One year ago, on August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey bore down on Houston, unloading 19 trillion gallons of water on the city more than a year's worth of rain in just five days.

The impact on the local Jewish community was devastating. More than 2,000 Jewish households flooded, and seven major Jewish institutions suffered extensive or catastrophic damage, including two of the largest synagogues, a day school, the JCC and a senior care center. And Federation was there. Communities from around North America sprung to action to help immediately following the storm and throughout the rebuilding efforts that have followed.

Repairing Homes, Restoring Lives
"We were all raised with the value that we should give back to the community. But I never thought we'd be asking for help," said Margaret Lewis, whose home flooded during the storm. Working with The Jewish Federations of North America, the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston set up the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund, which has raised more than \$22 million to assist the community with both short- and long-term recovery needs. This vital fund helped provide immediate assistance to individuals and families after the storm, including financial assistance, furniture and appliance grants, and much more. Federations also

provided Houston with countless packages of essential supplies, including air mattresses, clothing and more.

In addition to their donations, Federation lay and professional leaders from around North America also traveled to Houston in the storm's aftermath to help the local Federation manage operations and fundraising during this time of great need, as well as to volunteer with on-the-ground recovery efforts.

"You think of the immediate ramifications of property damage and having a place to go when the hurricane hits, but you don't often think about the long-term damages people have to live with," said Gail Norry, the Philadelphia-based chair of JFNA's Emergency Committee, who traveled to Houston to assist.

One area of notable, ongoing need has been mental health care. Even a year later, an estimated 18 percent of Houston-area residents are still suffering



Hurricane Harvey synagogue flood damage

from post-Harvey psychological distress and each new storm that occurs brings these issues to the surface.

In response, local Federations contributed to vital mental health recovery efforts in Houston. In the months since Harvey, grief and trauma counselors from the Israel Trauma Coalition have been brought in to train hundreds of school administrators and teachers, first responders, firefighters and police officers on how to help those struggling in their community.

Supporting Jewish Life
In addition to the immediate, life-saving relief efforts Federation made possible, it also continues to support the ongoing rebuilding of Jewish institutions and continuity of Jewish life in Houston. Individual Federations across North

America have given generously to sustain Houston's vibrant Jewish life. By helping with synagogue dues, summer camp scholarships, day school tuition and Israel experiences, no family in Houston has to choose between rebuilding their home and investing in Jewish life. These efforts are critical and powerful investments that help ensure a bright Jewish future in Houston.

"I never really appreciated that our Federation also gives to other cities and other places in need. And now, when we're asking for help, I get it. We're taking care of our own people," said Lewis. "I understand the power of the community and the power that the Federation has to support all of us."

Looking Forward
While Federation has helped the community come a long way, Houston is far from fully recovered. Almost a year later, the future of many of Houston's Jewish institutions remains uncertain,

and countless families are still displaced and struggling. Fundraising efforts continue to support the ongoing needs that will arise as families and institutions work to make long-term decisions.

The Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts are a remarkable example of the unstoppable power of *Klal Yisrael*, the Jewish collective. That continued support, which has endured over the millennia of Jewish history, remains essential as Houston continues to work to rebuild.

"Donors ask 'Why give to an umbrella? Why not give directly to the institutions?'" The important efforts in Houston are what the national Federation system is all about," Norry said. "*Kol Israel Arevim Zeh La Zeh* - each of us is responsible for one another. It happened to Houston and it can happen to anyone. I think we need to be mindful and take care of each other." ▲

Introducing the Community Friends Program

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

To make a long story relatively short, which is usually not my style, I'd like to share my most rewarding volunteer experience.

Back in Madison, Wisconsin, I was the newsletter editor at the congregation I belonged to. One day when the rabbi came over to drop off an article, I asked him what he did all day. I listened and several verbs later I asked Rabbi Brian, "So when do you ever stroke your imaginary beard and study Torah?" - which is what I imagined (male) rabbis did. Brian and his wife Debbie both worked part-time and they had a two-year-old daughter, so he answered that there was no time. I had met his daughter one day when she was running around outside the synagogue in a pink tutu, and the next thing I knew we were running and hiding from someone together. We bonded immediately. I offered to spend time with Liora on Wednesday nights so the rabbi could study, go shopping, or even spend time with Debbie outside the house. I had the commodity of time to offer and I went over every Wednesday night for one year. It was a triple mitzvah: I was supporting my rabbi, I was supporting my community by giving the rabbi time and space, and I created bonds with three people who are still dear friends 19 years later.

Although my experience was about helping a young family, the principle is the same: I saw a situation and intuitively knew that I could help out

and provide a resource where it was needed. It was a weekly commitment of about three hours, it provided me some serious play time, and the people I was helping were deeply grateful.

It takes a village to raise a family, run a monthly luncheon, and care for the elders in our community. As the monthly senior luncheon attendance grows, as the list of people who receive a holiday gift bag lengthens, the Federation recognizes that the needs of seniors in our community are also changing and growing. In order to address those needs, the Federation is starting a Community Friends Program. We will begin on a small scale to match volunteers with people who would like a visitor, need help going grocery shopping, or perhaps need a ride somewhere, to state a few examples.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Community Friends Program, please contact me at 239.481.4449 x2 or jodicohen@jfedlcc.org. You will be asked to complete an application and have a conversation so we can learn about you, your interests and what you would like to do.

We will endeavor to honor the stated vision of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties: "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)." ▲

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DAY: Tuesdays, 12:30~3:30 P.M.
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Community Free Synagogue events and programs

Brown Bag Movie Night

The next C.F.S. Brown Bag Movie Night features *Menashe* (2017) at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday October 18 in the C.F.S. Community Hall, 10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers.

This touching film, shot in Yiddish, is the story of a Hassidic widower in Brooklyn's ultra-Orthodox community battling for custody, trying to raise a son on his own, and the many traditional obstacles he faces. "It is an intimate exploration of faith and price of parenthood" (imdb), and a close-in look at a community that often cloisters itself off from the surrounding world.

Pack your dinner; admission and soft drinks are free.

June 2019 Israel Pilgrimage

The June 4-15, 2019, C.F.S. 6th biennial Israel Pilgrimage is starting to fill up. This acclaimed educational and spiritual experience includes nine nights of

superior first-class hotel and kibbutz guest house accommodations, nine breakfast buffets, a welcome dinner in Old Jaffe and farewell banquet in a 4-star Abu Gosh restaurant, in addition to six other dinners on tour and even a Bedouin lunch after a camel ride near Avdat in the Negev!

Land services include 10 days of private touring with a premiere certified guide on a luxury Wi-Fi equipped air-conditioned coach.

This travel adventure, led by Rabbi Bruce Diamond, is a lifetime opportunity for a most moving and uplifting religious, cultural and historical tour of Israel.

This tour is limited to 26 people and costs \$3,250 per traveler plus airfare. If you are interested and would like more information on the schedule, costs, reservations and other details, please email Arnie Harris at arnieh@embarqmail.com.▲

What do you think?

L'CHAYIM wants to know!

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

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B'NAI MITZVAH



Benjamin Stanley Manekin, son of Jennifer and Lawrence Manekin, older brother of Allison, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 6 at Temple Judea. Benjamin is a 7th-grader at Cypress Lake Middle School. Benjamin enjoys playing the bass in Chamber Orchestra and is a member of the Southwest Florida Symphony Youth Symphony. Benjamin's interests are photography, fishing, video games and everything related to nature and animals. Benjamin is thankful to Rabbi Marc Sack, Diane Seidenstein, Tab Scribner and his religious school teachers in helping him prepare for this milestone. He looks forward to sharing this special occasion with his family and friends.

Mother and daughter **Arlene and Samantha Gallentine** will be called to read from the Torah as B'not Mitzvah on Friday, October 19 during regular Shabbat services at The Community Free Synagogue. Originally from Maryland, Arlene and Sam moved to Fort Myers four years ago. This an exceptional achievement for Arlene, who has recently been designated legally blind. She recently retired from retail work. Sam works at Lakes Regional Library. They began their adult Hebrew education at Community Free Synagogue's Auxiliary Rabbi Tom Miess' Hebrew Reading Ulpan and continued their preparation for this special moment



with C.F.S. Auxiliary Rabbi Terri Goldberg. They are very excited and would like to invite the community to share this experience with them.



Maya Renee Shuster, daughter of Anna and Adam Shuster, older sister of Zachary, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, October 27. The Shusters have been Temple Beth El members since moving to Fort Myers from Michigan in 2010. A seventh-grade honor student at the Canterbury School, Maya enjoys singing and playing tennis and golf. Maya has been taking piano lessons since she was five years old. She loves spending time with her friends, family and dogs, and watching scary movies with them. Maya believes she is very fortunate and understands the importance of giving back to the community. She volunteers

at Saint Vincent de Paul. The Shuster family feels blessed and grateful to Dale Cohen for all the hours of coaching and teaching in preparation for this special day, which could not have happened without her. Special thanks to Maya's religious school teachers and to Rabbi Luna. The Shuster family is very proud and thankful to be a part of Temple Beth El and this great Jewish community. Maya is excited to celebrate this day with her family, friends from near and far, her temple and her teachers.



Colin Narayan Taschner, son of Kavitha and Brian Taschner, brother to Aidan Taschner, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, November 10. Colin is proud to follow in the footsteps of his father who became a Bar Mitzvah at Temple Beth El in 1986, and his brother who became a Bar Mitzvah at Temple Beth El in 2015. Colin's hobbies include swimming, baking, playing basketball and taking care of his beloved dog, Teton. He is a seventh-grade student at Cypress Lake Middle school. He is a great student and is a member of the math team. Colin's mitzvah project is to volunteer

at the Humane Society. He has a special way with animals and is looking forward to helping socialize kittens and puppies to help them become ready for adoption. Colin is very excited to share this special day with his friends and family. He would also like to thank Morah Dale and Rabbi Luna for all their help in preparing for his Bar Mitzvah.

Each month, L'CHAYIM will list your Life Cycle events – births, B'nai Mitzvah, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and obituaries. For B'nai Mitzvah, please include up to 150 words about your child. Submit your events to LChayim36@gmail.com. Photos are appreciated; please e-mail as JPGs at 300dpi.

Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center update

By Susan Suarez, President & CEO

All greetings from the Holocaust Museum and the Janet G. and Harvey D. Cohen Education Center! We enter the new 2018-2019 season boosted by the record-breaking year just past! Beginning with the landmark capital gift from lead gift donor Janet G. Cohen and purchase of our new



Susan Suarez

building, we also reached two additional milestones. Over 30,000 students, teachers and visitors were educated by our outreach efforts, which means that since our founding in 2001, over 200,000 people have now participated in our Education and Museum programming and events!

When you combine all the SWFL students we've served with the visitors from all 50 states and 45 countries, the ripple effect of our little Museum is enormous. If each of them tells just one other person about the importance of respect for others, thousands upon thousands of other people may be inspired to act against bigotry, hatred and violence. Thank you to everyone who has made this possible – our generous supporters, Museum members and volunteers.

None of this would have been possible without your help!

The capital campaign for our future home continues to make great progress. We will remain operating in our present location until Spring 2019, when we will move into our new location at 975 Imperial Golf Course Blvd., Naples. We anticipate holding the formal dedication ceremony during Fall 2019.

The special Museum benefit screening of *Operation Finale* at the Paragon Pavilion Theaters was a great success! Proceeds benefitted the Museum's Education programs. Thanks to all who supported the event by purchasing tickets and to those braved the stormy weather to attend!

Our October calendar is already filling up with school programming, both here at the Museum and onsite at schools. We will also be hosting a number of Group Tours. If your group or organization is interested in information on scheduling a private tour, please contact David Nelson at david@HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org.

We are excited to invite you to participate this fall in the new Movies That Matter SWFL series, a community-wide effort to raise awareness of human rights issues. The Museum is a partner in the Human Rights Film Coalition of SWFL, whose mission is to "Educate, engage

and facilitate discussion around human rights topics through film."

Four documentaries (described below) will be presented and moderated by a recognized authority or guest panel on the film's subject. An audience Q&A will follow each film. Reservations are required. Screenings will take place at different venues throughout Naples. Sponsorships and reserved seating are also available for the series. While there is no cost to attend, donations help cover the costs of providing tickets to our community members, regardless of ability to pay. To RSVP, to make a donation, and for sponsorship and reserved seating information, please visit www.HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org and click on the "Events" page. Please note that donations will not be accepted at the South Regional Library venue. Here are the films to be presented:

I Am Jane Doe – Thursday, October 18, 6:30 p.m.

Temple Shalom, 4630 Pine Ridge Road, Naples

A gripping tale chronicling the battle that mothers waged on behalf of their daughters who were victims of sex trafficking.

Film Sponsor: Women's Foundation of Southwest Florida

Freedom to Marry – Thursday, November 1, 7:00 p.m.

Temple Shalom, 4630 Pine Ridge Road, Naples

An intimate yet major documentary that goes behind the scenes to show the historic civil rights struggle that led to the legal battle before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Film Sponsor: PFLAG Naples

John Lewis - Get in the Way – Tuesday, November 13, 7:00 p.m.

Sheffield Theater, Moorings Park, 120 Moorings Park Dr., Naples

The first biographical documentary of the legislator, activist and civil rights leader considered by many to be "the conscience of

Congress."

Venue Sponsor: Moorings Park

Bending the Arc – Monday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.

South Regional Library, 8065 Lely Cultural Pkwy, Naples

The story of Dr. Paul Farmer and others who work on the frontlines of the global health crisis to prove the difference that dedicated professionals can make in what may seem to be hopeless situations.

Venue Sponsor: South Regional Library

No donations accepted at this venue

We will hold our annual Volunteer Welcome Back event on Monday, November 5 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Skilletts in the Bed Bath and Beyond Plaza in Naples. RSVP to info@HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org. Thanks to our volunteers for all they do! ▲



Conference for child survivors and their descendants to be held in Florida

The World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust & Descendants will hold its 30th Annual International Conference of Child Survivors, Second and Third Generations, Spouses and Families in Cooperation with the Kindertransport, and Generations of the Shoah, in West Palm Beach this year. The 2018 conference will be held from Friday, November 9 to Monday, November 12. For conference information and registration, visit www.holocaustchild.org or call Susan at 818.606.0793.

Stay connected @ www.JewishFederationLCC.org

SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

LUNCH BUNCH

Come out for lunch, see familiar faces and meet new friends at our free monthly senior lunches

Thursday, October 11th
12:00 PM
Temple Beth Shalom
702 SE 24th Ave.
Cape Coral
RSVP by October 8

Thursday, November 8th
12:00 PM
Temple Judea
14486 A and W Bulb Rd.
Fort Myers
RSVP by November 5

Let us know if you will be driving or if you would like a volunteer to pick you up.

RSVP—Jodi Cohen
239-481-4449, ext. 2 or
jodicohen@jfedlcc.org

● Beit Midrash ●

Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Judea

Rabbi Marc Sack
Begins Monday, October 8
6:15pm – 7:30pm
Introduction to Judaism*
•Overview of Jewish Practice, Thought & History
–Learn about:
•Beliefs & Prayer
•Shabbat, Holidays and Dietary Laws
•Ethics and Values
•History and Modern Communities
* A prerequisite for people who are considering conversion

Begins Monday, October 8
7:45pm – 8:45pm
"Letters to My Palestinian Friend" by Yossi Klein Halevi
•Modern Israeli Life and American Jews

Rabbi Michael Schorin
Begins Monday, October 8
6:15pm – 7:30pm
"The Mystery of Love" by Marc Gafni
•The X-rated side of Jewish Mysticism

Herb Fried
Begins Monday, October 8
7:45pm – 8:45pm
"Crazy Herb's Hebrew Words"
•Memory system for learning Jewish Culture and Modern Hebrew

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

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Combating the Delegitimization of Israel

Featuring
Asaf Romirowsky, PhD
Executive Director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East

Asaf Romirowsky is an adjunct scholar at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and the Middle East Forum. Asaf is a former Israel Defense Force (IDF) International Relations liaison officer in the West Bank, currently serves as an IDF reserve liaison officer to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He holds a B.A. in Middle East Affairs and Contemporary Jewish History and from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and an M.A. in International Relations and Middle East Affairs from Villanova University, where he focused on the differences and similarities between the Mitchell Report in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland. He has traveled widely in Egypt, Turkey, Jordan, Tunisia, Israel, and the Palestinian Territories.

Wednesday, October 24, 2018 • 7:00 P.M.
Temple Judea
14486 A&W Bulb Rd. • Fort Myers

To register please visit www.aipac.org/templejudea

*This event is off the record and closed to the press.

Recounting how the ancient faith redefined itself in the 18th and 19th century United States

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

The Chosen Wars: How Judaism Became an American Religion, by Steven R. Weisman. Simon & Schuster. 368 pages. Hardcover \$30.00.

There's the story of the rabbi who went to a Jewish community center mixer to welcome newcomers. When someone asked him what kind of rabbi he was, he answered, "Jewish. I'm a Jewish rabbi."

Was he making a joke? Didn't he know that the questioner wanted to know if he was Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, Hasidic or some other variation of the religious spectrum? Of course, he knew. It was a serious answer, but with a bit of a wink.

■ Phil Jason

The story that Steven R. Weisman tells in *The Chosen Wars* is, among other things, the story of the search for a unified Judaism responsive to time and place and seeking to be confident about a Jewish future. It's the story of growing opportunities for Jews to enter cultural mainstreams and the costs and consequences of admission. It is a story told with power and precision.

After sketching the earliest arrivals of Jews in New Amsterdam (1654) and examining Jewish life in the Colonial period, Weisman explores the peaks and valleys of migration – most often peaks – that occurred in the 18th and 19th centuries. He details the early prominence of Charleston, South Carolina, as a place

where immigrant Jews could build a vibrant community.

He examines the interplay between becoming an American with almost unimaginable rights and holding on to the traditional responsibilities of Jewish life as it had existed in past centuries. Along the way, Weisman explores the vying strands of Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jewish culture.

Part of the process of fitting in had to do with imitating what Americans expected in houses of worship. To that end, many synagogues echoed the grandeur of churches, particularly Presbyterian churches.

But how did Jews make the transition from various corners of Europe, where they were so often victims of persecution, to an unaccustomed security and even prominence in the land of the free? Weisman presents the saga in its many parts, drawing on a series of fascinating characters and stressful crises.

How did the Civil War affect Jewish communities and individual Jewish lives? Weisman reveals the answers. How did the huge influx of Jews in the later 19th century impinge upon Jews already here for generations? Readers will find out.

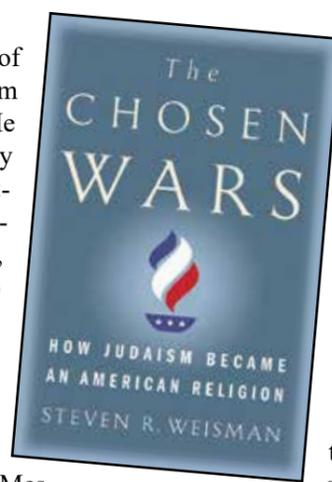
Weisman also presents the key issues of the Jewish Enlightenment in Europe (the search for rational religion) and its parallels in the United States. He shows readers how the major players, spiritual leaders and lay leaders of congregations fought over the ingredi-

ents for a single brand of Judaism: Jewish Judaism or American Judaism. He takes us through the many conferences where attempts were made, mostly with good intentions, to bargain and to vote up or down which pieces of Jewish baggage to unload.

Biblical Hebrew? Longing for the restoration of the Temple? The Messiah? The dietary laws (was the Trefa Banquet a horrible mistake or misunderstanding – or was it a purposeful, insulting act of rebellion)? Observance of the Sabbath? Literal understandings of Old Testament fables? The stigma of being a "chosen" people? And what about the circumscribed traditional roles of Jewish women? Shouldn't they be equals in all respects?

Dealmakers came and went. Congregations merged and separated. From it all, something emerged that can be called American Judaism.

It was shaped by people like Rabbi Isaac Wise, Isaac Leeser, Felix Adler, David Einhorn and scores of others. They fought over almost everything, including which prayers to be extracted from the new Judaism's prayerbooks and whether or not to continue the traditions of wearing head coverings and prayer shawls. They



edited and published rival Jewish newspapers to promulgate their positions. They took turns praising and demonizing one another. In most cases, these were giant personalities; in many cases, they had giant egos.

Weisman writes in a straightforward, accessible style. His decisions about the major and minor divisions of his enormous body

of material are effective. It is likely that readers will find themselves judging him to be consistently fair-minded.

The Chosen Wars is no doubt the most significant contribution to writings about the Jewish experience in the United States since Jonathan D. Sarna's *American Judaism: A History* (2004). It makes the issues come to life, especially the primary one: In what ways can a people who strive to be part of wider society reconcile the historical reality – born of both choice and coercion – of being apart from it? ▲

Originally published in the Washington Independent Review of Books. Reprinted by permission.

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



Steven R. Weisman



Read The Book; Skype The Author

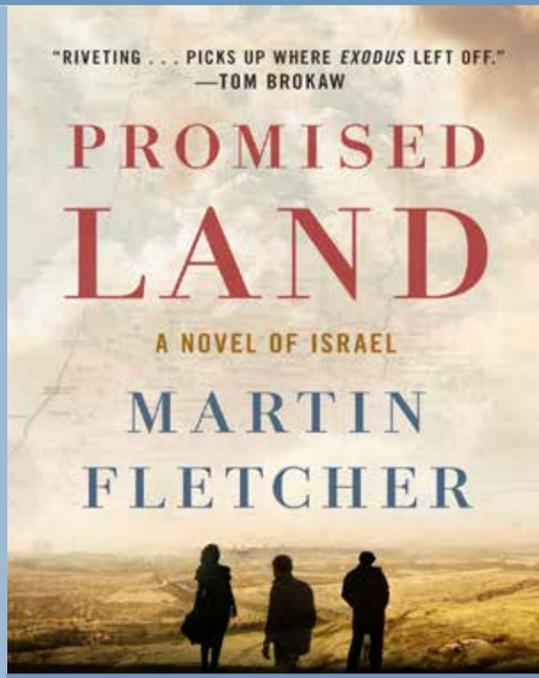
Featuring author Martin Fletcher
(via Skype) for a Q&A Session

Martin Fletcher, an NBC News Bureau Chief in Tel Aviv, has won many book awards and 5 Emmys.

Wednesday
October 17th,
2018

6:00–7:30 P.M.

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Fort Myers, FL 33908



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Gift cards to Publix, Walmart, Target, etc, as well as cash donations, are also appreciated. Jewish Family Services helps seniors, individuals and families with a variety of needs.

Black Sabbath in Rome

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

Seventy-five years ago this month, on October 16, 1943, a roundup of the Jews of Rome began. Early on that Saturday morning, Rome's ghetto was surrounded by German forces, prior to a thorough door-to-door search for Jews. The Germans were carrying prepared lists of names and addresses, and knew exactly who to target. With only a few minutes to prepare themselves, the Jews who had been taken in the razzia (roundup) were conveyed to the *Collegio Militaire* (Military College), there to await their fate.



■ Dr. Paul Bartrop

At the outset of World War II, Italy had a population of over 44 million, of whom some 52,000 were Jewish. A Jewish presence in the country dated back well over 2,000 years, and with such longevity the community became completely integrated within Italian society and culture. Italians in general did not exhibit open anti-Semitism, and unlike National Socialism in Germany, Italian fascism was not predicated on theories of ethnic and racial hierarchies or anti-Semitism. Indeed, until the Italian National Assembly passed a series

There is little doubt that the Germans felt frustrated over the fact that the Final Solution had, as they saw it, been endangered by the actions of some Italians.

of anti-Semitic laws in 1938, Jews were even permitted membership in the Fascist Party.

As Italy's dictator, Benito Mussolini, tied his nation closer to Germany, however, he came under increased pressure to crack down on Italian Jews. The anti-Jewish laws of 1938, when they were introduced, were watered-down versions of Germany's Nuremberg Laws: they excluded Jews from serving in the military and from certain professions; Jews were not permitted to hold government positions or to work in radio and journalism; marriage between Jews and non-Jews was prohibited; and resident alien Jews were placed in internment camps. Often, however, local authorities only half-heartedly enforced these measures, and in some instances simply ignored them altogether.

This does not mean that Italian Jews in general did not suffer after these laws were passed, however, and a number left Italy, choosing to live in the Americas or elsewhere.

Italy entered World War II in June 1940, firmly allied with Nazi Germany. In pursuit of Mussolini's grand visions of a new Roman Empire, Italy would eventually establish military occupations in southern France, Albania, Greece and Yugoslavia. German officials expected the Italians to round up and deport Jews in those areas, but most Italian officials wanted nothing to do with mass murder or deportations. As a result, during 1941-1943, thousands of Jews fled German-occupied areas for the relative safety of Italian territory.

Rome was bombed for the first time on May 16, 1943. On July 25, 1943,

Benito Mussolini was deposed by the Fascist Grand Council as Prime Minister and arrested on order of King Victor Emmanuel II. Mussolini's successor, Marshal Pietro Badoglio, then began secret negotiations for Italy's surrender.

On September 3, the Italian mainland was invaded. The same day, General Giuseppe Castellano signed an armistice agreement with the Allies in Cassibile. The agreement was made public on September 8, and the Germans, increasingly desperate to ensure that Europe's southern flank be safeguarded – as well as to be done with vacillation regarding the implementation of the Final Solution – hastened to fill the vacuum this created with a full-scale invasion of Italy.

There is little doubt that the Germans felt frustrated over the fact that the Final Solution had, as they saw it, been endangered by the actions of some Italians. Italy was, after all, Germany's closest ally in Europe, and it was in Europe that the war against the Jews was being played out.

The consequence was that the Germans now decided to impose a grinding occupation on the Italians overall – and Italian Jews suffered accordingly. With the raid on the Rome ghetto on October 16, Jews were taken in regardless of age, sex or health. Some managed to escape. In the days leading up to the razzia, officials in the Vatican had learned of the possibility of such an action and managed to persuade Pope Pius XII to order the opening of Rome's monasteries and

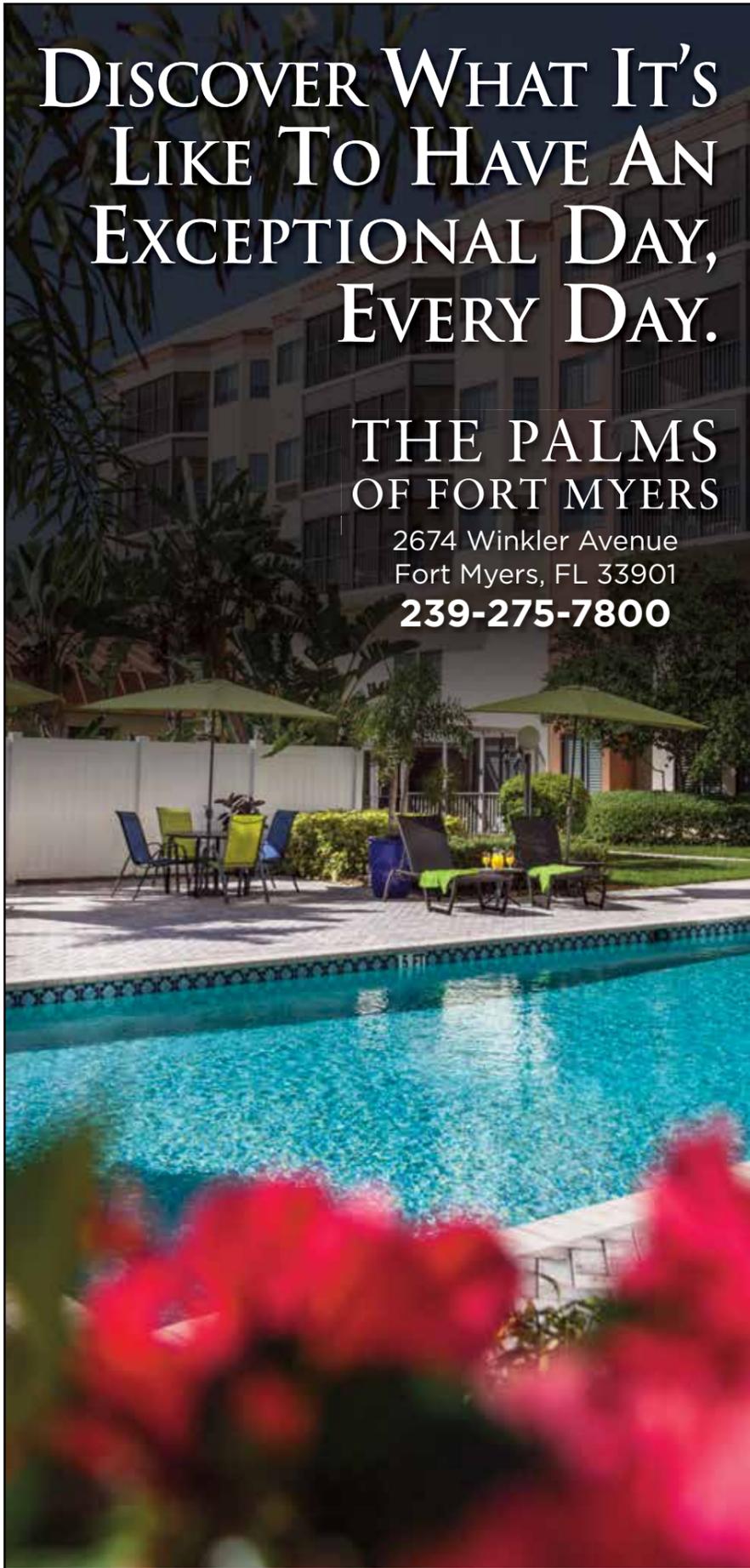
convents as sanctuaries. Several thousand were sheltered this way, which only served to anger the Germans all the more. On October 16, however, well over 1,000 Jews were caught by the Germans, with others in succeeding weeks.

Building on this start, throughout October and November of 1943, German occupation authorities commenced a roundup of Jews in all of Italy's large cities. The plan was to concentrate them at several points and then transport them to the death camps in Poland, but in many cases Italian civilians and officials warned Jews of the operation in advance. Sometimes, they went so far as to hide Jews they knew, or give shelter to those seeking help.

On the other hand, the majority of all those arrested were deported to Auschwitz, where most died. Overall, it has been estimated that over 7,000 Italian Jews became victims of the Holocaust. The "Black Sabbath," as identified by author Robert Katz in a book of that title published in 1969, saw the start of the great ordeal for the Jews of Rome, and then all Italy. Although there had been a Jewish presence in Italy since the days of the Roman Empire, it now faced one of its greatest challenges.

October 1943 – 75 years ago this month – is yet another time for deep reflection for Jews with an awareness of what it means to be free. ▲

Dr. Paul Bartrop is Professor of History and the Director of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University. He can be reached at pbartrop@fgcu.edu.



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What makes a wine kosher?

By The Wine Whisperer

I've written about kosher wines in the past, but it's probably not a bad idea to revisit the topic and refresh our memories. Not long ago, kosher wine was considered the cough syrup of the wine world: mostly made from nasty Concord grapes and often annoyingly sweet. Those of us who are at a certain age certainly remember the old Mogen David and Manischewitz of days gone by. But today many kosher wines, made from classic grapes, are complex and full of character.

In fact, sales of kosher wines are growing fast. While no one tracks buyer demographics, some producers claim that up to half aren't even members of the Jewish faith – they're just attracted to the wine's quality and its preparation, which guarantees purity. Kosher wines, like fashionable organic products, avoid pesticides and other chemicals. And, as we all know, many Jewish holy day traditions include

wine, including the four cups we drink at Passover, and the Kiddush before our Sabbath meals.

"Kosher" comes from the Hebrew word for good, fitting or proper. The kashrut, the strict Jewish dietary code, classifies food into three categories: naturally kosher foods such as fruit and vegetables; foods not kosher by nature, but can be made so by processing under strict supervision; and foods that aren't kosher and can never be, such as pork and shellfish. Packaged food and drink that are certified kosher usually bear a U symbol (for Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations) or a K (for Organized Kashrut Laboratories).

The kosher process is exacting. It must be strictly supervised, usually by a rabbi, and none of the work can be done on a holy day. Only Jews who observe the Sabbath can handle the wine, and even after it's poured into barrels and given a rabbinical seal, a *shomer* (watchman) has to guard it.

Kosher wine is essentially made the same way as other wine, except that no leavens, wheat or animal products can be used. The yeasts must be certified kosher. And though ordinary wines

use gelatin or egg whites to filter suspended particles before bottling, kosher wines must use non-animal filters such as the agent bentonite or kosher fish gelatin.

There are actually two categories of kosher wine for consuming at religious ceremonies. The first must be handled and served only by Sabbath-observant Jews. The second variety (called *mevushal* or boiled) can be handled by anyone and still maintain its integrity.

That spiritual robustness is due to a process of flash-pasteurization: the temperature of the wine is brought from 15°C to 90°C and back again, all in about ten seconds.

This is believed to strengthen the wine's spiritual essence and to make it impervious to any corrupting influences. It was also done to scare off heathens so they wouldn't use the wine in their own rituals. Unfortunately, it has also frightened away serious wine drinkers and given kosher wine a poor reputation. If the heating process is done incorrectly, it can create an unwanted cooked character. However, with modern technology and correct technique, some winemakers believe

it actually enhances the wine's aromatics and stabilizes its tannins, fruit and color.

Some of the world's leading producers now also make kosher wine: classified Bordeaux châteaux Lafite-Rothschild, Giscours and La Gaffelière; Champagne's Laurent-Perrier; and Beaujolais vintner Georges Duboeuf. From the New World, Hagafen Cellars in California and Rodrigues Markland Cottage Winery in Newfoundland. Yarden, Israel's premium kosher wine, has won medals at Vinexpo, the annual wine Olympics held in France.

Many of these wines are worth drinking, whether or not you keep kosher. And be sure to raise a glass with the traditional Jewish toast of "L'chaim" – to life! ▲

Jerry Greenfield is The Wine Whisperer. He is Creative Director of Greenfield Advertising Group, and Wine Director of the international Direct Cellars wine club. His book, Secrets of the Wine Whisperer, is available through his website. Read his other writings at www.winewhisperer.com.

Falafel superstar – recipe by Dalia

As the Jewish year comes to a close, let's take a look at the most popular food of the year.

With the advent of a new year comes the inevitable deluge of best-of and worst-of lists, and the culinary world is no exception. Using reports released from the National Restaurant Association, which surveyed more than 700 chefs, and the Food Network Kitchen prognosticators, as well as a major supermarket chain, we find a greater influence from Israeli cuisine that is rising to the top of the list of the food trends in 2018. Foods like hummus, tahini, pita and shakshuka, and spices like saffron, turmeric, harissa and za'atar are showing up on mainstream menus. But the winner of the year,

and fluffy and soft on the inside. It's that magical combination that makes it craveable, too.

Falafel is a plant-based superstar with a delightful texture, customizable flavor and endless versatility. It's relatively inexpensive and delicious to make at home, and chefs can create signature versions to keep customers interested and satisfied.

Falafel is a Middle Eastern dish that incorporates mashed chickpeas and spices. The falafel is formed into balls or fritters, fried (can also be baked) and usually pocketed in a pita or it can be stuffed into a flour tortilla (or corn tortilla for those preferring a gluten-free option). Toppings paired with falafel include hummus, Israeli salad (chopped tomatoes, cucumbers, onions), pickled white/red cabbage and tahini sauce (ground-up sesame seeds).

There are a few countries associated with the origin of the falafel: Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Palestine and even India. However, it is one of the most popular, if not *the* dish of Israel! Falafel was introduced by Yemeni Jews in the 1950s. They also introduced the

idea of serving falafel in pita bread. Although there are many influences from surrounding countries, let's get serious...falafel will always be a 'traditional' Israeli dish! Today, you can find falafel everywhere – from the Far

East to the Far West – because falafel is so delicious regardless of where you are from.

I have created a gluten-free, baked recipe, trying to incorporate spices and ingredients that are trending this year.

Gluten-Free Baked Falafel with Tahini Aioli

Ingredients:

- 1 lb dry chickpeas/garbanzo beans
- 1 small onion, roughly chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 3-5 cloves garlic
- 3 tbsp potato starch
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1 tbsp cumin
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1/4 tsp harissa
- 1/2 tsp turmeric
- 1/2 tsp za'atar
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 egg
- Olive oil spray

Instructions:

- Pour the chickpeas into a large bowl and cover them with about 3 inches of cold water. Let them soak overnight. They will double in size as they soak.
- Drain and rinse the garbanzo beans well. Pour them into your food processor along with the chopped onion, garlic cloves, parsley, potato starch, salt, cumin, ground coriander, black pepper, turmeric, harissa, za'atar and egg.
- Pulse all ingredients together until a rough, coarse meal forms. You want the mixture to hold together, and a more paste-like consistency will help with that. But don't over process, as you don't want it turning into hummus!
- Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1-2 hours.



undoubtedly is falafel. This humble Israeli fried snack is poised to become a trend-forward star!

Biting into falafel is one of those experiences that makes eating such a pleasure – insanely crispy on the outside



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

- After the mixture is chilled, pre-heat your oven to 375°F. Form falafel mixture into round balls or slider-shaped patties using wet hands or a falafel scoop. I usually use about 2 tbsp of mixture per falafel. You can make them smaller or larger depending on your personal preference. The balls will stick together loosely at first, but will bind nicely once they begin to fry.
- Place on a greased baking sheet or greased mini cupcake pan. Spray with olive oil on top of the falafel balls.
- Bake for 25-30 minutes. Increase oven temperature to a 500°F broil. Broil falafel for 3-5 minutes (or longer) until the tops are golden brown. Here is my favorite way to serve a falafel taco. Start with a layer of hummus on top of the flour taco (corn tortilla if gluten-free), and then add the falafel, lettuce, tomatoes and pickles. Top with a thin layer of tahini aioli.

Tahini Aioli

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup tahini
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 garlic clove
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup water

Instructions:

- Combine all ingredients in a small food processor and blend until smooth. Aioli will keep in the fridge for up to 2 weeks in an airtight container.

- Serve alongside falafel. ▲



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

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Monday, October 22, 2018
Monday, November 26, 2018
Wednesday, December 26, 2018

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.

New TV Shows: Jewish Connections

Here are the new TV shows/mini-series that premiered in September, or will start in early-to-mid October, that have a major Jewish connection.

The Good Cop is a ten-episode comedy/drama Netflix series that premiered on Friday, September 21. It is based on an Israeli TV series. The American version (which may have a 2nd season if viewers like it) was created by **ANDY BRECKMAN**, 63. He was the creator of *Monk* and it remains his biggest hit. Tony Danza plays a disgraced former NYPD officer who never followed the rules. Josh Groban (who isn't Jewish) plays Danza's straight-arrow son, an NYPD detective. The two become unofficial partners and solve crimes.

Emma Stone and **JONAH HILL**, 34, co-star in *Maniac*, a Netflix limited series that premiered on Friday, September 21. They play two strangers with mental problems who are drawn to the late stages of a mysterious pharmaceutical trial. They hope the drug used in the trial will cure their problems almost instantly. Appearing in recurring roles are **JULIA GARNER**, 24, (*Ozark*) and **JEMIMA KIRKE**, 33 (*Girls*).

Single Parents premiered on ABC on Wednesday, September 26. It's a comedy about Will Cooper (Taram Killiam), a single father of a young daughter. His friends urge him to get back in the dating game. **BRAD GARRETT**, 58, (Robert on *Everybody Loves Raymond*) has a regular role as Douglas, a wealthy widower with two young twin daughters. He urges Cooper to "hire a

babysitter" and get out there.

The Neighborhood, a comedy/drama, begins on Monday, October 1 on CBS. **MAX GREENFIELD** (Schmidt on *New Girl*) stars as Dave Johnson. Things get dicey when Johnson, who is described as the "nicest guy in the Midwest," moves his family to a tough L.A. neighborhood. Many people there don't appreciate his extreme neighborliness.

Star Wars: Resistance starts on the Disney Channel on Sunday, October 7. This series is set decades after the events in the *Return of the Jedi* and six months before the events of *The Force Awakens*. *Resistance* follows Kazuda Xiono, a pilot who is recruited to spy on the growing threat of the First Order. **JOSH BRENER**, 33, (Nelson "Big Head" Bighetti on *Silicon Valley*) is a series regular.

The Romanoffs is an eight-episode anthology series that begins streaming on Amazon on Friday, October 12. It's about people around the globe who believe themselves to be descendants of the Russian royal family. The premise, on first read, made me think that this series would romanticize the Romanoffs (as some documentaries do). The Romanoff Tsars, collectively, had a terrible record of anti-Semitism and a lot of Jewish blood was/is on their hands. Their cruel bigotry is often glossed-over or simply overwhelmed, in a sense, by the brutal way in which the last Tsar, a Romanoff, and his family were killed.

However, then I read that the creator and writer of the series is **MATTHEW**

Interested in Your Family's History?

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

So here's the deal:

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

WEINER, 53. He gets historical details right and his new show may be great. Weiner was a major writer for *The Sopranos* and the creator and writer of *Mad Men*. *Mad Men* has to be ranked among the best TV series of all-time. The entire series is on Netflix. If you haven't seen it, stay with *Mad Men* for the first season and you'll be hooked. Stars in a *Romanoff* episode include **PAUL REISER**, 62, **COREY STOLL**, 42, **NOAH WYLE**, 47, **JON TENNEY**, 56, and **AMANDA PEET**, 46.

Camping is a comedy that starts on Sunday, October 14 on HBO. It follows Walt (David Tennant), whose 45th birthday was supposed to be a delightful back to nature weekend. It was organized by his aggressively controlling wife Kathryn (Jennifer Garner). Well, of course everything that can go wrong does. Based on a Brit TV series, the American version is written and produced by **LENA DUNHAM**, 32, (*Girls*) and **JENNI KONNER**, 47 (*Girls*). Series regulars include **BRETT GELMAN**,

41, and **IONE SYKE**, 47. Remember her from the '80s romantic classic *Say Anything*? Her father is Donovan, the famous '60s Scottish folk rocker. Her mother is an American Jew. Her husband, rocker **BEN LEE**, 39, is Jewish.

Last, but not least is *The Connors*, which starts on ABC on Tuesday, October 16. It is the latest iteration of *Roseanne*, the TV series. The character Roseanne (Connor), co-star John Goodman recently disclosed, is supposed to die in pilot episode (for reasons everybody in America knows). The Jewish cast members include **SARA GILBERT**, 43, as Darlene, the younger daughter, and **MICHAEL FISHMAN**, 36, as D.J., the Connors' son.▲

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Meteor Festival in Israel: a visionary and cutting-edge musical journey

By Arlene Stolnitz

This year, between the end of summer and the onset of Rosh Hashanah, an event of note took place in Israel which I thought was worth noting. Readers of my column know that I am all about promoting peace (*shalom bayit*) and in my belief that the power of music is one way to achieve at least "the start" of a dialogue.



Arlene Stolnitz

The Meteor Festival, as it was called, took place from Thursday, September 6 through Saturday, September 8 in Pecan Park, Lehavot HaBashan* in the Upper Galilee in Israel. For three days and two nights, more than 50 international acts and as many local artists performed, presenting a wide range of styles to audiences that spanned several generations. The format consisted of five separate stages and included an open-air cinema, arcade tent, art displays and food courts. A campsite next to the festival site allowed families to participate in this cutting-edge event.

Believe me when I say you have never heard of many of these performers – groups included Battering Trio, Honey Dijon, Musa Masa, Flying Lotus of Montreal, Assaf Amdursky, The Great Machine and endless others with strange sounding names. But when I checked them out, I found a plethora of sound and talent such as I had never heard! From the hypnotic disco sound of Australian producer Tornado Wallace to the funky jazz beat of the multicultural

ensemble Quarter to Africa, each group I listened to on YouTube never failed to amaze me with their originality.

In the month prior to the festival, the organized BDS movement had targeted dozens of musical acts who had planned to participate. (See my article published in L'CHAYIM in April 2018, "BDS: The Israeli Music Scene and the Cultural Boycott.") Many dropped out in order not to lend their name to what they call "art-washing Israel's crimes against Palestinians." Some South African groups had declined to participate in solidarity with the apartheid movement. Others, however, chose to perform, ignoring the political implications of their appearance in the festival.

Once again I refer to my April article in which I wrote, "It would do us well to remember the words of Sir Elton John, who wrote in 2010, 'Musicians spread love and peace, and bring people together.'" I believe in this wholeheartedly and will continue to write about it in my future columns.

I am continually looking for groups that promote this idea and you will be reading about such groups in my future writings.

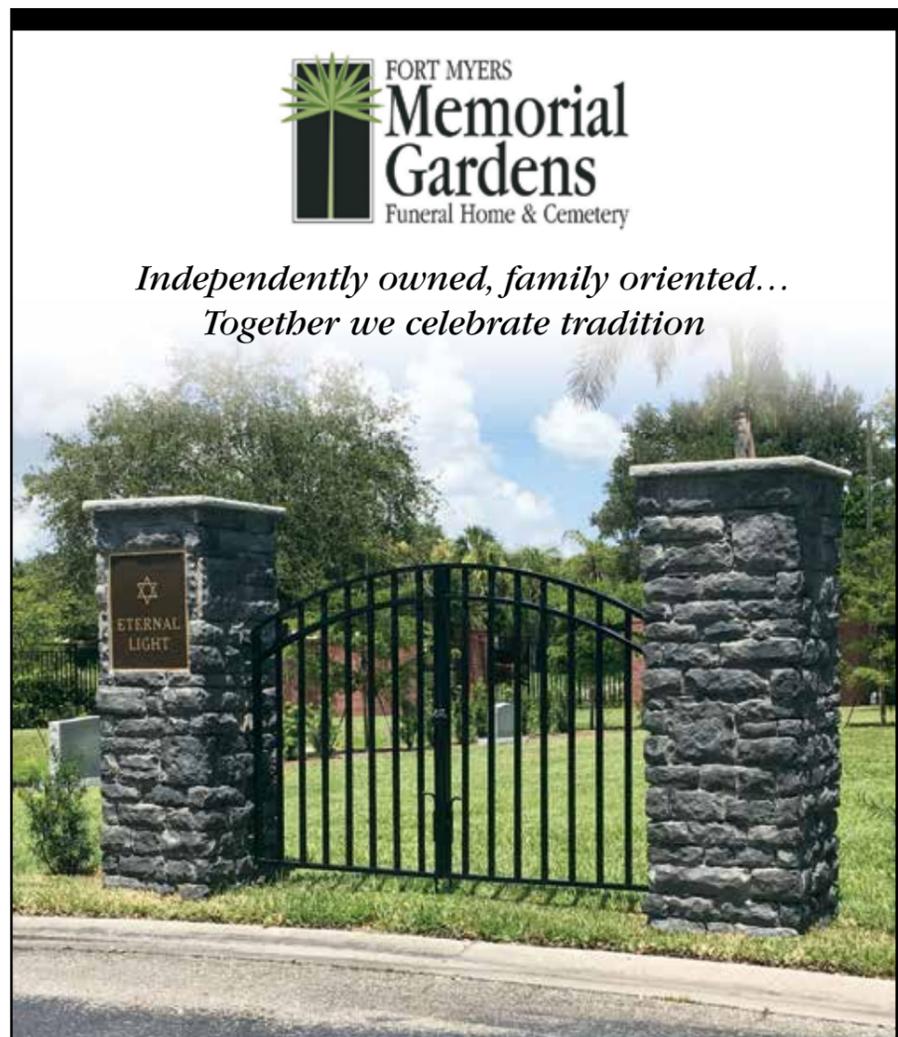
*Lehavot HaBashan (in Hebrew, Flames of the Bashan) is a kibbutz in the Hula Valley near Kiryat Shmona. Located in the Upper Galilee, it has a population of about 860. The village was established in 1945 by immigrants from Germany and Poland and brought to Eretz Israel by Youth Aliyah. They specialize in the production of fire protection equipment.▲

Arlene Stolnitz, founder of the Sarasota Jewish Chorale, is a member of the Jewish Congregation of Venice. A

retired educator from Rochester, New York, she has sung in choral groups for over 25 years and also sings in Venice's Chorale (formerly Exsultate!). Her

interest in choral music has led to this series of articles on Jewish folk music in the Diaspora.

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



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ISRAEL'S UNSUNG
HUMANITARIAN MISSION
SAVED THOUSANDS
OF SYRIAN LIVES

As the Assad regime completes its takeover of southern Syria, Israel is winding down its humanitarian and medical operation that saved thousands of Syrian lives throughout the

civil war. Israeli hospitals have treated 4,800 Syrian civilians since 2011, half of them children. A separate field clinic in the Golan Heights treated 6,000 Syrian civilians since last year.

Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser, former IDF Military Intelligence research division chief, said the Syrians "are much more aware than they were in the past that Israel

is a force for good. In the past, due to education programs, Syrians perceived Israel as a demon that wants to expand, and which poses many dangers. Today, the Syrian public knows that Israel is a power that tried to help it, at least on the humanitarian level, during years of war. They know Israel provided extraordinary care for the sick and wounded near the border. And beyond that, that a variety of Israeli humanitarian organizations provided aid. That will remain in the Syrian public awareness."

Syrian-Druze civilians living near the Israeli border have also become more friendly toward Israel, Kuperwasser assessed. "They see Hizbullah [which fought alongside the Assad regime] as hostile. There has been an attempt to force the Syrian-Druze in the southwest village of As-Suwayda to join Hizbullah. But they have resisted this. The Assad regime is also trying to forcibly recruit them, but they refused this as well." (Yaakov Lappin, Investigative Project on Terrorism)

STUDY: ISRAEL'S EXPORTS
TO GULF STATES WORTH
\$1 BILLION

Israel's exports to Gulf Arab states were worth nearly \$1 billion in 2016, a new analysis of trade data suggests, despite their refusal to recognize Israel or have diplomatic relations with it.

The Tony Blair Institute for Global Change said its analysis of goods flowing between third countries suggests the true amount of Israel's direct trade in recent years with Saudi Arabia and the UAE is "close to" \$1 billion. The study said the current figure is only a tiny fraction of the trade's potential.

The institute said the true value of current trade is hidden in export statistics of trade with third countries. These goods are then resold to the Gulf.

The institute estimates that the level of trade is greater than Israel has with Egypt and Jordan combined, despite having peace treaties with both. (Jacob Atkins, i24News)

U.S. ENDS ASSISTANCE
TO UNRWA

State Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert said Friday, August 31, "The Administration has carefully reviewed the issue and determined that the United States will not make additional contributions to UNRWA...The fundamental business model and fiscal practices that have marked UNRWA for years – tied to UNRWA's endlessly and exponentially expanding community of

entitled beneficiaries – is simply unsustainable...The United States will no longer commit further funding to this irredeemably flawed operation...Palestinians, wherever they live, deserve better than an endlessly crisis-driven service provision model. They deserve to be able to plan for the future.

"Accordingly, the United States will intensify dialogue with the United Nations, host governments and international stakeholders about new models and new approaches, which may include direct bilateral assistance from the United States and other partners, that can provide today's Palestinian children with a more durable and dependable path toward a brighter tomorrow." (U.S. State Department)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION ADOPTS
NEW DEFINITION OF ANTI-
SEMITISM IN SCHOOLS

The U.S. Department of Education is changing how it investigates allegations of discrimination against Jewish students. Kenneth Marcus, who leads the department's Office for Civil Rights, outlined the policy change in a letter last month in which he re-opened a 2011 investigation into Rutgers University in connection with alleged discrimination against Jewish students.

Marcus wrote that the Education Department would adopt the "working definition" of anti-Semitism that is "widely used by governmental agencies" including the State Department. That definition includes examples in which demonizing or delegitimizing Israel, or holding it to a double standard not expected of other democratic nations, are deemed anti-Semitic.

In 2016, the Senate overwhelmingly passed bipartisan legislation that would have forced the department to use the State Department definition in evaluating discrimination complaints. (Michael Stratford, *Politico*)

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Why are Palestinian refugees different from all other refugees?

By David Harris, CEO of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), August 30, 2018

Why indeed? News reports suggest the U.S. administration is considering a historic decision to redefine who is and is not a Palestinian “refugee.” I hope the reports are true. A change is long overdue and could actually help the search for peace long-term.

Tragically, there have been countless refugees in the annals of history.

In the 20th century alone, tens of millions of refugees, if not more, were compelled to find new homes – victims of world wars, border adjustments, population transfers, political demagoguery and social pathologies.

The 1923 Treaty of Lausanne codified the population exchange of Greeks and Turks, totaling more than 1.5 million people.

Huge numbers of Hindus and Muslims moved because of the partition of the sub-continent into two independent nations – India and Pakistan.

Refugees by the millions, unable to return to their countries, were created as a result of the 12-year Third Reich.

The exodus from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam after the victory of communist and rebel forces was massive.

Refugee flows from Africa’s civil and tribal wars have been constant.

Yemenis were kicked out of Saudi Arabia by the hundreds of thousands during the first Gulf War due to Yemen’s support for Iraq.

Countless Bosnian and Kosovar Muslims fled, or were expelled, due to Serbian aggression.

And this is just the tip of the refugee iceberg.

In fact, I don’t have to look far to understand the unending refugee crises of our times – or the trauma they have created. My mother, father and wife were all refugees. Yet, instead of wallowing in victimization or becoming consumed by hatred and revenge, they started anew, grateful to their adopted lands for making it possible.

This past May, the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) counted 19.9 million refugees in its jurisdiction, with the largest populations being from Syria, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Over five decades, UNHCR estimates that it has assisted 50 million refugees “to help restart their lives.”

And yet, of all the world’s refugees,

one group – the Palestinians – are treated entirely differently.

Indeed, the 1951 Refugee Convention explicitly does not apply to Palestinians, who fall within the purview of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

There is no equivalent UN body for anyone else in the world.

The definition of a refugee under the UNRWA mandate is also unique. It covers all descendants, without limit, of those deemed refugees in 1948. This helps explain why its caseload has quintupled since 1950.

Unlike UNHCR, UNRWA does not seek to resettle Palestinian refugees, but rather provides social services while, in effect, keeping them in perpetual limbo.

And despite the crocodile tears shed by Arab countries about the plight of their Palestinian brethren, they have been among the most miserly donors to UNRWA. They assert that it is not their responsibility to care for refugees created by the decisions of others. The top five donors to UNRWA until now have been the U.S. and European governments.

By the way, I should hasten to clarify that only those Palestinians seen as victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict are given this special treatment.

During the first Gulf War in 1991, when Kuwait sent packing 400,000 Palestinians for their alleged backing of Iraq’s Saddam Hussein, there wasn’t much reaction from the international community. And more recently, while thousands of Palestinians have been dislocated by the Syrian civil war, again there’s silence. Arab violations of Arabs’ human rights are seemingly viewed differently, if they’re noticed at all.

And in Lebanon, with its large Palestinian population under UNRWA auspices, the government has long imposed strict restrictions on Palestinians’ right to work in numerous fields. Where is the outcry? So, we are confronted by something unprecedented.

Palestinians are not the world’s first refugee population, but their leadership may be the first to resist a workable, long-term solution.

Think about it. In 1947, the UN offered a two-state plan to address competing national claims. The Jews accepted it; the Arabs rejected it. Or in

UN-speak, the “proposed Arab State failed to materialize.” Had it been otherwise, two states could have emerged, and with any luck, learned to coexist. Apropos, to this day, that two-state concept remains the most feasible outcome.

Instead, the Arab side went to war. Has there been any war without refugees? Yet, in a case of reverse causality, Israel is blamed for the refugees resulting from hostilities triggered by five Arab countries.

Meanwhile, the Arab-Israeli conflict produced even more Jewish refugees from the Arab world (and Iran). They, however, resettled elsewhere with little fanfare and no attention whatsoever from the UN.

Then, by design, the Palestinian refugees, and their descendants ad infinitum, were kept in UNRWA camps to serve as permanent reminders of the impermanence of their situation. Taught to focus their hatred on Israel, and to believe they will one day “return,” they’ve been denied chances for new lives. And they’ve been used to create the single biggest stumbling block to achieving peace – the Palestinian fantasy of ending Jewish sovereignty in Israel.

Even now, 13 years after Israel totally withdrew from Gaza, astonishingly, over 500,000 Palestinians continue to live in UNRWA camps there. Why? Gaza is under Palestinian rule, not Israeli.

While the Palestinians are among

the world’s largest per capita aid recipients, much of that assistance has been siphoned off to line the pockets of Palestinian officials – who then turn around and seek more funds for their allegedly neglected people.

It’s the same absurd logic that Hamas deploys when it decries energy shortages, while trying to shell the Israeli power plants that provide electricity to Gaza.

The whole process is abetted by an elaborate, well-funded UN apparatus, encompassing more than just UNRWA, created by a majority of member states to support the Palestinians. By contrast, among others, Kurds, who have a compelling case for statehood, and Cypriots, who have lived on a divided island due to Turkish occupation, have no comparable UN bodies to advance their causes.

This is not to say that Palestinians have had easy lives. They haven’t. It is to say that their leaders, with the complicity of too many, have pulled off one of the most successful spin jobs in history. Rather than resettle the refugees, they have shamelessly exploited them and their descendants.

Therein lies the irreducible tragedy – and the heart – of a decades-long conflict.▲

The AJC West Coast Florida office, located in Sarasota, can be reached at 941.365.4955.

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continued from previous page

developing nations, is a portable crank-operated machine capable of taking water from a polluted source such as a river and purifying up to 500 liters per hour – enough to supply all the daily water needs of 300 to 400 people.

Last May, Israeli Ambassador to Cameroon Ran Gidor displayed NUFiltration’s portable unit at a public event showcasing innovative Israeli products for beekeeping and water purification. Gidor worked with the Israeli Foreign Ministry’s MASHAV Agency for International Development Cooperation to arrange a donation of \$15,000 worth of NUFiltration equipment.

According to ReliefWeb, a cholera

outbreak in Cameroon has claimed at least a dozen lives and sent hundreds of people, many of them children, to hospitals since May. The World Health Organization says cholera is primarily linked to insufficient access to safe water and adequate sanitation.

“Our aim is to share our technological advances in the domain of water purification with our Cameroonian partners,” said Gidor. “With simple, cheap Israeli technology we can assist those communities in Cameroon that have been afflicted by cholera.”

UN-approved NUFiltration systems also are deployed in Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, the Fiji Islands, Cambodia, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Mali and Nigeria. They function for three years before needing new filters. (Abigail Klein Leichman, ISRAEL21c.org)▲



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Seeds of gratitude

It is traditional to eat a pomegranate on Rosh Hashanah. Our sages believed there were 613 seeds in each pomegranate, thus equaling the number of mitzvot (commandments) we observe. And, if you're up for a challenge, try and count every seed in this fruit! Maybe there are even too many seeds to count and the rabbis gave up at 613 so they could finish eating the pomegranate?

■ **Rabbi Michael J. Schorin**

But instead of counting up our mitzvot, maybe we could see each seed of the pomegranate as a seed of gratitude. What can we be grateful for? Join me in enumerating what you and I can imagine:

- ◆ For husbands, wives, children and parents who give our lives meaning, context and love
- ◆ For homes that keep us dry from rain and safe from wind
- ◆ For salaries, pensions and social security, so that we can afford the homes mentioned above
- ◆ For chicken soup, brisket and rugelach, so we can celebrate the holidays in style
- ◆ For our health and that of our loved ones, so that we can enjoy our lives
- ◆ For belonging to the Jewish people
- ◆ For temples and synagogues to attend
- ◆ For hot weather and beautiful clouds
- ◆ And for the family of ducks I saw crossing the street this morning! I bet you can think of many more

things to be grateful for. Believe me, I could go on for several pages about how many wonderful things there are to be grateful for. The trick, however, is to become aware of each of these seeds of gratitude in our mind – and in our heart.

Brother David Steindl-Rast wrote: "Everything is a gift. The degree to which we are awake to this truth is a measure of our gratefulness, and gratefulness is a measure of our aliveness."

So how alive are you? Whenever you spend a moment in gratitude, whether you are grateful for something small or large, it is as if you are sending a "thank you" note to Hashem.

And Elie Wiesel, z"l, had this to say about gratitude: "For me, every hour is grace. And I feel gratitude in my heart each time I can meet someone and look at his or her smile."

As the month of Tishrei dawns upon us, I hope you will find a minute to be grateful for Rosh Hashanah and the New Year. And I hope you will be grateful for Yom Kippur and doing well with your fast. And as we enter the holiday of Sukkot, the holiday of pure joy, I hope you will feel the joy of harvesting all of these seeds and fruits of gratitude. As Brother David Steindl-Rast also said: "The root of joy is gratefulness. It is not joy that makes us grateful. It is gratitude that makes us joyful."

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy and Joyous New Year!▲

Rabbi Dr. Michael J. Schorin, MAPC, BCC is a Chaplain in Lee Health's Department of Spiritual Services, and ministers at the Gulf Coast Medical Center.

Visitors to the synagogue

Here's a regular occurrence in the lives of rabbis and congregations. A woman I've never seen before shows up at synagogue on a Friday night. After asking her name, I ask if she's new to town. She's not, she



■ **Rabbi Marc Sack**

says. Is she saying Kaddish for someone or observing a yahrzeit? She's not. She just wanted to be in synagogue. From the pulpit, I saw the woman singing along with "L'kha Dodi." She remembered this. She picked up our Shabbat flyer and other material. Other people went up and spoke with her. "I'm glad you came here," I said. "Let us know how we can help you." She never came back.

Did we fail? Perhaps, but I doubt it. She seemed to genuinely enjoy the experience of my congregation. She was one of the last to leave the Kiddush.

My synagogue is located on what has become a major thoroughfare. It's easy to know we are here. But, as a newcomer to the synagogue, the woman had to look at our website or call the synagogue to find out what time our service would be. Her attendance was more than an impulse. Something drew her to the synagogue that night.

All of us want – and need – people to join our congregations. We want people to be so touched by their experience at our synagogue that they want more, that they'll come back, that some Jewish spark will grow to be a flame.

But frequently that does not happen. What does happen is that some Jew has a longing and feels somewhere in their soul that the synagogue is their touchstone. It's a place of comfort. They show up at my synagogue or some other – perhaps for the first time in years. They sing the familiar words. Perhaps they talk to God. We fulfill a need.

There's a Chasidic tale commonly told at High Holiday time. It's about the shepherd boy who finds his way to the synagogue on Yom Kippur but is illiterate. So, during the height of prayer, he whistles. It's all he knows. Everyone in the synagogue is angry that the boy interrupted the service, but the rabbi quiets them, telling them that the boy's whistle was his prayer and that it was offered with the depth of sincerity.

Our synagogues regularly get visitors who come to us because they want to pray. Being available to them is a great mitzvah. It's one of the reasons we're here.▲

Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.

Dealing with loss

Late last summer, Melinda and I were bicycling around The Forest when she noticed a tiny turtle hatchling entirely drawn in on the hot pavement. We immediately



■ **Rabbi Bruce Diamond**

brought him home and placed him in a small tub of properly treated water with a basking rock, filter and ultraviolet water sanitizer. (We had this equipment stored away from when we rescued another little Peninsula Cooter hatchling we found on our step three years ago, aptly named Cooter, who is now eight pounds and thriving in a 75-gallon tank in the courtyard.)

We named him Harvey, after the hurricane that was ravishing the Houston area. Melinda soon pointed out to me that this little guy, no larger than a quarter, was missing his back left paddle but still had his leg. We figured some bird had grabbed it by that paddle when he and his nest mates had hatched, but dropped the hatchling when it broke off. Double lucky little guy – first not being a meal and now having others to care for him.

Having learned the ropes about raising turtles with Cooter, Harvey had it made and eventually graduated to a 30-gallon container with all the "fix-ins."

Then, just last Shabbes morning before we went off to synagogue for Torah study and breakfast, it occurred to me that Harvey needed more swimming room, so I pushed his basking rock (these turtles need to sun themselves a lot to dry out and absorb Vitamin D) to the side of the tank so he'd have more room to exercise.

When we came home three hours later, his tank was empty and he was in the pool, scarcely moving. Apparently, he had used the rock to climb out the tank, dropped the 30 inches to the floor and scurried into the pool. Now while I don't keep too many chemicals in the pool, certainly not enough to harm a turtle, the temperature in our small

"champagne pool" in the courtyard was set to 104°F, since it is used as a spa. As you probably know, as "cold blooded" reptiles, turtles have no way of regulating their body temperatures, and Harvey was beyond what he could endure.

I fished him out, spent the day nursing him as best I could, prayed a lot and remained hopeful. I read everything I could, tried everything I could, and rejoiced whenever he showed a bit of motion, which he was doing for a while.

That night I left him on his favorite basking rock with a warming lamp to keep him comfortable. In my heart I imagined that the next morning I'd find him scurrying around like his old self. When I went out to check on him early next morning, I found that he was covered by a blue wash cloth that Melinda placed over him when she found him dead on the bottom of the tank.

I took little Harvey out back and buried him next to Mau-Mau, an interesting black cat with whom I shared 17 years that I buried back there 14 years ago. I then spent the rest of the day in bed since it was Labor Day.

Why am I sharing this with you? First of all, I find that writing about this makes me feel a little better, and maybe that's enough of a reason. You'd think I'd be better at dealing with this little loss considering what I do for work. As you might have heard, my people and I tend to have very close connections, some longer than 20 years. I try not to be too aloof or hide behind titles and status. Most of all, when I am needed, I try to give everything I've got to give. But, no matter how deeply I feel, I can't let myself properly grieve, especially when people are passing on and I'm counted on to help hold things together.

So I'm thinking it all gets stored up somewhere inside of me waiting for a time to come out. Well, it's coming out now. Thanks, Harvey. I was lucky to know you!▲

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



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It's a new year, so ask lots of questions

My mother made me a scientist without ever intending it. Every other Jewish mother in Brooklyn would ask her child after school: 'So? Did you learn anything today?' But not my mother. She always asked me a different question. 'Izzy,' she would say, 'did you ask a good question today?' That difference – asking good questions – made me become a scientist!"

— Isidor I. Rabi, Nobel laureate

As we begin to read the Torah again each year on Simchat Torah, I am reminded of my first rabbinical assignment.

A first-year student at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's Los Angeles campus, I conducted Friday night Shabbat worship at a convalescent home in the city. After the service, I visited patients in their rooms, earning \$10 for each visit.

One Friday night, not long after I began, the home's attendant greeted me with this: "Rabbi, you have a new congregant. Rabbi Rosenfeld, an 85-year-old Orthodox rabbi is with us and he will attend your service."

"What?!" I thought to myself. "An Orthodox rabbi is coming to my service! What will he think? How will he react?"

These thoughts played on in my mind throughout the service as an alert but impassive Rabbi Rosenfeld sat in the congregation, a large black kippah on his head and a copy of the Union Prayer Book clutched tightly and unopened in his hands.

After the service, I made my rounds

to visit with residents, approaching his room with trepidation.

He was most gracious and he told me this story: "I am 85 years old," he said, "and I have been studying Torah my whole life. And yet I still feel like I am at the beginning of my studies."

"How is that?" I asked.

"When I was 6 years old, my teacher handed me a Chumash (text of the five books of the Torah in book form) and said, 'Read!' So I read – in Hebrew – the first words of the Torah: 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.'

"Then, I looked up and asked, 'If in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, then who created God?'"

"And wham! I got such a slap across the face that I still feel it, so I always feel I am at the beginning of my studies."

From my perspective, when studying the first portion of the Torah, "Who created God?" is a most appropriate question.

In traditional Jewish life, one who has strayed from religious observance but returns to the fold is considered to be *hozer b'tshuvah* (one who returns in repentance), but the literal translation of the phrase is "one who returns with answers."

The late Rabbi Harold Schulweis taught that he felt greater admiration for a *sheh hozer b'she'elah* (one who returns with questions).

Indeed, questions are the lifeblood of learning, and there is no better time to ask them than now, as we begin anew, with fresh eyes, our annual cycle of reading the Torah. ▲

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

Yom HaAliyah

Once the High Holy Days are over you might think we have no Jewish holidays until Hanukkah. This month in the Jewish calendar, Cheshvan, is even traditionally called Mar Cheshvan, meaning bitter Cheshvan, because there are no major Jewish holidays. But in the summer of 2016, the Israeli Knesset added a new holiday on the 7th of Chesvan – Yom HaAliyah – Aliyah Day, a day recognizing and celebrating immigration to the land of Israel and honoring all those who made aliyah. The day falls during the week when we read the Torah portion Lech-Lecha, when God tells Abraham and Sarah to go forth to a new land, the Promised Land. Yom HaAliyah is also celebrated in the spring, on the 10th of Nisan, when the biblical Israelites crossed over into the land of Israel.

My great-aunt made aliyah on January 1, 1951, and I've been reading letters that she and family members wrote to each other from 1951-1959. While

the letters tell of ordinary life events about children, jobs, etc., they also give incredible insight into kibbutz life in early Israel. The very first letter describes Israel as "in a state of becoming." There were certainly challenges: "a straw mattress, no pillow, wooden shacks without heating, strange food, crowded tables of strangers speaking a strange language, tedious work washing dishes eight hours a day, and no real place of comfort to come to when work is finished." But my great-aunt also describes the awe of visiting biblical sites: "Climbing Mt. Gilboa where Saul was murdered by the Philistines, swimming in a Roman pool with the water as clear as I've ever seen water in my life, and digging up some pottery and glass from the Byzantine period in the ruins of a Roman theatre in Beit Shahn."

Yom HaAliyah falls this year on Tuesday, October 16. May we all take time on that day to honor those who built up the land of Israel and reflect on how we can continue to support the flourishing of Eretz Israel. ▲

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



■ Rabbi Nicole Luna

Caring for others

Atzadik in peltz," i.e., a righteous person in a warm, fur coat. This is one way of describing Noah, whose story we read about in this month's Torah portion on Shabbat Noah. There are various ways to warm oneself when in a cold room. One way is to build a fire (or turn up the heat).



■ Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz

the only one who profits.

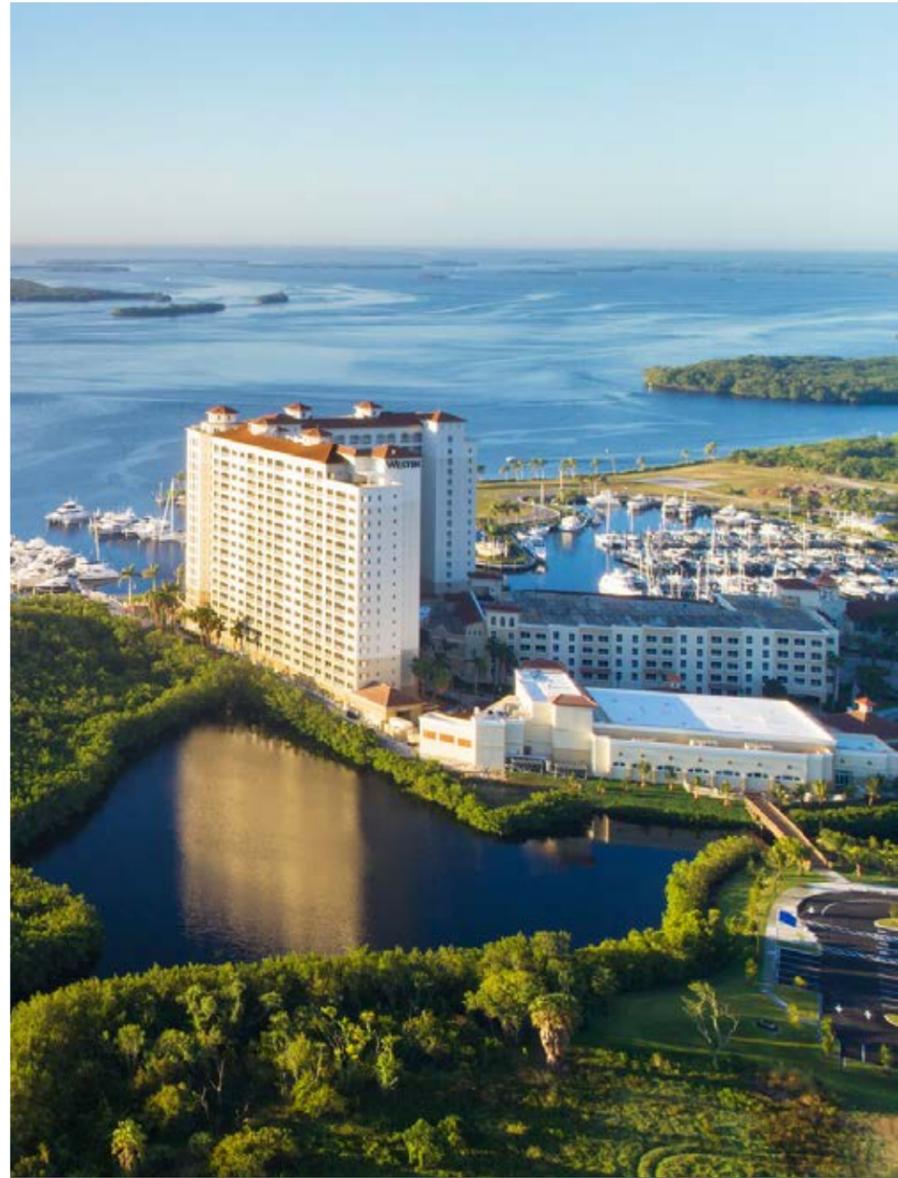
The Zohar explains that one of Noah's greatest faults was that, though his own behavior was righteous, he did not try to influence others. In Noah's generation, everyone except his own family, was totally immoral. G-d informed Noah that He would destroy

the entire world with a flood, saving only Noah's family. Yet, Noah did not argue with G-d. Instead, he withdrew into his own little world, building the ark and continuing in his own personal righteous ways. Only when people approached and asked what he was doing, did he tell them about the impending disaster.

For these reasons, the flood is referred to in the Bible as the "Waters of Noah." Noah could have averted the disaster if he had reached out to his fellow man. But he clothed himself warmly in his righteous deeds, unconcerned with the bitter "cold" from which his generation suffered.

When we see another Jew in the cold, we must not just bundle ourselves up even more warmly. Rather, we must invite him in and build a fire, helping fan the spark within every Jew into a burning flame. ▲

Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz serves at Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida.



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TEMPLE BETH EL SCHOOLS Fort Myers

Dale M. Cohen, R.J.E. - M.A. Ed.

Religious School Director

Dear Parents of the Religious School: As I sit here in my office writing this article, I am thrilled to reflect upon Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. It was amazing to see so many of our Religious School students and families participating in our Ne'ilah Service. It brings great joy to all of us here to have such active participation to conclude the Yom Kippur service. We are so thankful and blessed to have our students. We could not be more proud of you.

I must thank our exceptional Torah readers during our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services: Zoe Sax, Jacob Spiegel, Shayne Seiser, Jack Calder and Ella Laboda. Mazel tov to all of you on a job well done. *Yasher koach.*

Todah rabah to Larry Schoenfeld for his wonderful reading of the Torah for our students during their Junior Congregations. We are blessed to have such wonderful teachers who lead our Junior Congregations – Morah Amy Shinbaum, Mackenzie Sax, Evan Kagan – and our wonderful volunteers. We are so grateful to all of you.

Our next two Junior Congregations will be held on Saturdays, September 29 and October 20, from 9:00 to 10:15

a.m. in the sanctuary with Morah Dale. This is a mandatory part of our curriculum for grades

4-7. This is a wonderful opportunity to become familiarized with and proficient in the Saturday morning liturgy.

Maya Shuster will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, October 27. We are so proud of Maya and all of her accomplishments on one of the most meaningful days of her life.

During this time in our country and the world, it is extremely difficult to see the silver lining inside of the clouds, with all of the fires, weather tragedies, shootings, etc. Hopefully they will bring to the forefront some very important conversations that need to happen. Perhaps these conversations will bring people closer together.

Performing mitzvot is crucial for us as Jews. It is an integral part of who we are and how contributing and repairing the world (*tikkun olam*) is truly one of our greatest attributes. On Sunday, October 7, we will have a canned food drive because we take seriously the mitzvah of feeding the poor. Our Confirmation class will deliver the donations to the Harry Chapin Food Bank during the next few weeks. All of the food will be distributed shortly before the Thanksgiving holiday to help make people's celebrations more special.

Temple Beth El Religious School values creating Jewish adults!

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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.

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TEMPLE JUDEA SCHOOLS
Fort Myers

For our kids, only the best

Tab Scribner,
Director of Congregational Learning
The buzz at Temple Judea is all about our kids! On Sunday, August 26, we “took flight” for the start of our school year. With the call that we are “now boarding” TJRS Flight 5779, students and families assembled for a formal welcoming and kickoff of activities.

The concept of taking flight comes from the notion that our religious school is an immersion experience, where our classroom spaces serve as a



Batya, Gabriela and Asher learn about Rosh Hashanah traditions

little slice of Israel. When students arrive at TJRS, they are entering another place, surrounded by and engulfed in Judaism and Jewish life. On Sunday, as students arrived, we equipped them with their own “captain’s wings” and their very own TJRS *darcon*, or passport, that was stamped throughout the day as the children engaged in learning. The *darcon* will stay with the child throughout the year, marking their achievements, attendance, and participation in school activities, community events and congregational services.

In the classrooms (named after Israeli cities), it was a day of non-stop engagement and learning, highlighted

tions. Additional guiding questions for classroom discussion are presented for each prayer. It is not enough to say the words. We want our children to have an understanding and personal connection to the liturgy. The children’s *siddur* is also aligned with the congregational *siddur* to which the children will graduate as they prepare for their bar or bat mitzvah.

It’s a new year at Temple Judea Religious School. We believe that our engaging revamped curriculum is a valuable first step toward acquiring Jewish life skills in preparation for committed Jewish adulthood. We offer a direct connection to, and involvement with,

the State of Israel with our kid-friendly shlichah, Zohar Ben Hamu. To support Hebrew language acquisition, we integrate Hebrew into our Judaica instruction. With our post-bar/bat mitzvah program, we ensure that our students will be engaged with our community and the Jewish people long after b’nei mitzvah.

Our high school program is truly a blending of generations. In addition to taking classes from our rabbi and congregational leaders, our high schoolers also serve in the religious school as *madrichim*, partnering with a class and bonding with a younger “buddy” to help mentor throughout their studies. We believe that the connection across generations is essential to being part of a community.

In addition to learning all the Hebrew, we will study in *chevruta* (pairs) across age groups, to extract meaning and cultivate inquiry using the weekly Torah *parshah* and other Jewish texts. We will celebrate holidays and life cycle events as an extension of the home, with services, meals and, most of all, the camaraderie of our Temple Judea family. This is where lifelong friendships will come to be.

If you missed our opening day, I welcome you to “book your reserva-



David and Ari team up to find their Hebrew names in a word search

tion” to join us by contacting me to discuss your child(ren)’s religious education needs. Of course, there’s more to Temple Judea than education, although nothing more important. Our kids are our future. We welcome you to join us as we take flight.



Morah Lee’s class enjoys a moment between activities

tion” to join us by contacting me to discuss your child(ren)’s religious education needs. Of course, there’s more to Temple Judea than education, although nothing more important. Our kids are our future. We welcome you to join us as we take flight.

We also introduced new children’s *siddurim*. Written by Alex Weinberg, Siddur Sholom presents our prayers in a kid-friendly, colorful context. Key words are color-coded, matching the Hebrew text with the English transla-

tion” to join us by contacting me to discuss your child(ren)’s religious education needs. Of course, there’s more to Temple Judea than education, although nothing more important. Our kids are our future. We welcome you to join us as we take flight.

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Joann Goldman,
Temple Judea Preschool Director
Autumn will explode in our classroom during the month of October. We will learn about the Jewish holidays through story time, discussions and creative art.

We will also discover the colors of autumn through themes such as leaves and pumpkins.

As we celebrate the new year, the children will have a chance on working together, sharing and helping others. We explain that we are like a colony just like the bees. We discuss how the bees make honey and how apples grow on trees. We dip apples in honey to celebrate a new year with a sweet taste to it. We focus on others and how to help the less fortunate, and how we can improve relationships with friends and family.

October is also Fire Safety Month. Along with learning about firefighters and safety, we are eagerly anticipating a visit from the local fire station. We all need to remind our children/

grandchildren and others visiting our home about safety rules. It is a time to remember the importance of learning and teaching fire safety.

Young children are particularly vulnerable to the threat of fire, with children under five suffering a fire death rate of more than twice the national average. We can help change these frightening statistics by teaching children about fire safety. Make an escape plan with your whole family and choose a meeting place outside.

We look forward to learning about a variety of animals such as woodland animals and farm animals. We can’t wait to get our hands inside of a pumpkin and take out all the seeds.

Our preschool has a brand new beautiful library that all our children can enjoy. We are very grateful to our parents and the community that supported us in creating this special room. The children will be able to check out books each week and have a special reading time with their family.



Temple Judea Preschool’s new library

SHALOM LIFE CENTER**Fort Myers****(239) 218-3433***Lawrence & Robin Dermer*

Unlike the elaborate environment that we've constructed for ourselves, the sukkah creates no illusions. It gives us a healthy dose of reality and shows us the truth. Its simple roof made of a canopy of leaves is open to the sky. This frail and temporary "hut" calls us to realize that a physical structure with a roof can protect us but can also limit us. How often do we obsess about past events or worry about what has not yet even occurred in the future? The "temporary" status of the sukkah teaches us that each moment is precious. All we really have is the present and this gift should not be wasted living in the past or trying to predict the future. By appreciating and making the most of this

very moment, we are doing all we can to bring a brighter future for ourselves, our families and the entire world.

The sukkah calls us to the truth and the truth is material things will never bring us lasting happiness. The strongest buildings made of brick and steel will eventually crumble. The joy that we experience being with friends and family, the love we feel for each other and our love of G-d is the only path to lasting fulfillment. This is the mitzvah of being together in the sukkah.

Gazing through the open roof that exposes us to wind and rain makes us vulnerable. This vulnerability is not weakness. It can actually be our greatest power.

Our Torah teaches us: "For seven days you must live in sukkot...that your descendants may know that it was in booths that I made the Israelites live

when I brought them out of Egypt. I the Lord am your G-d."

We were vulnerable when we journeyed out of Egyptian bondage, and only in this "letting go" and trusting G-d as our true guiding light were we able to see the promised land. By abandoning our dependence on the physical we can come to realize that our greatest strength comes only from our faith in G-d.

Sukkot is the time of our rejoicing where we gather in our sukkah, eating, drinking, celebrating and learning together, giving us an opportunity to externally express our faith and renewed commitment to G-d. Like the openness of the sukkah, we are open to both sunshine and rain, joy and pain, good times and times of great challenge.

Every year, right after Yom Kippur we rebuild this shaky and temporary hut to remind ourselves that our lives are fragile, fleeting and frail. We do

this to be reminded that sometimes all we have is our faith, the real foundation upon which we rebuild. Our true dignity and worth comes from the Divine spirit and not from our material possessions.

In 5779 may the sukkah we dwell in remind us of what we can always count on. If our Jewish foundation is strong and solid we can survive any storm. The Torah is our Tree of Life and G-d is our rock, our foundation and our salvation!

We are thrilled to be entering into our fourth season as one Shalom Life Center family and we promise to continue to bring even more wonderful and inspiring services, special events and concerts during the 2018/2019 season. For more information, please visit www.shalomlifecenter.org, call 239.218.3433 or email info@shalomlifecenter.org.

HADASSAH**Collier/Lee Chapter****(239) 301-0509***Lynn Wilner*

I hope you all enjoyed your summer and are ready for a wonderful season!

Please mark your calendars and join us to meet your friends and make new ones at our Welcome Back Luncheon on Tuesday, October 30 at 10:30 a.m. at Audubon Golf and Country Club. We will have a delicious lunch and hear from our guest speaker, Dr. Karen Ezrine, National Vice Chair of Hadassah Medical Organization. We will also be presenting and voting on our 2019 Slate of Officers. For details, contact Carol Finn at carolthompson@mylegaledge.com or 708.289.5181.

Here are some interesting facts about Hadassah you might like to know!

★ Hadassah Medical Organization's

Ophthalmology Department is 100 years old and each year it treats 45,000 patients!

★ What child would

want to be wheeled into the operating room on a hospital bed if instead he or she could arrive at the operating room in Hadassah's new ride-on car? Three-year-old Dan Synett did just that as he rode to surgery in style! Dan's mother said, "Dan received excellent care at Hadassah. Riding to the operating room in a car like grandpa's definitely made the whole experience even better."

★ Hadassah is honoring nurses as part of the celebration of 100 years of the Henrietta Szold Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing.

★ On any given day you might see a clown at Hadassah Hospital working with a young patient to help

them laugh and feel comfortable. Hadassah clowns have training in certain medical procedures so they can make the hospital experience a pleasant one for the children.

Why not see Israel for yourself?

Hadassah has a variety of Missions to Israel for you and your family. Missions in 2019 include "Explore, Rejoice & Experience Israel: Hadassah Purim Mission" (March 17-27), "The People, The Youth & The Future: Hadassah Youth Aliyah Mission" (March 26-April 5), "Celebration Across the Nation: A Yom Ha'Atzmaut Mission" (May 6-19), "Refresh & Recharge: Return to Israel" (September 4-15), "Taking It Easy Mission" (October 30-November 10), "The Land, The Heart & The Soul of Israel: Interfaith Mission" (December 2-13) and "Hadassah & Jewish National Fund Israel Family Tour: Celebrating Hanukkah and Our B'nai Mitzvah in Israel" (December 25, 2019-January 2, 2020). For more

information, contact Ayelet Tours at www.ayelet.com or 800.237.1517. If you are planning a trip to Israel, we can arrange a tour of Hadassah Hospital for you.

Are you looking for a book group, study group, evening activities, Knowledge & Nosh, advocacy/volunteer/fundraising opportunities, luncheons, Annual Mahj, Card and Game Day, educational programs or just want to have fun and get to know people? Then Hadassah is the place for you! To learn more about Hadassah, contact me at 239.598.1009 or lynninaples@yahoo.com, or Shelley at 239.301.0509 or shellskel@gmail.com.

If you would like to join Hadassah, upgrade to Life Membership or become an Associate (male affiliate of Hadassah), please contact Carol Hirsch at 239.631.6828 or chirsch1951@gmail.com, or Donna Goldblatt at mom443@aol.com.

See you at Hadassah!

**GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA****(239) 963-9347****GenShoah begins 2018-19 season****with Movies That Matter***Ida Margolis*

The GenShoah Steering Committee has selected programs this year that relate to all aspects of the mission of GenShoah: promotion of Holocaust education and human rights, preservation of the history and memories of the Holocaust, connection of the Second Generation to one another, and support of the Holocaust Museum & Cohen

Education Center.

The annual Kristallnacht Commemoration will be held on Sunday, November 4 at 2:30 p.m.

at Temple Shalom in Naples. All Second Generation (2gs) are encouraged to attend. If you are a 2g and are able to attend, please email me at genshoah-swfl@gmail.com.

The World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust & Descendants 30th Annual International Conference of Child Survivors, Second and Third Generations, Spouses and Families in Cooperation with the Kindertransport and Generations of the

Shoah will be holding its annual conference in West Palm Beach this year. The 2018 conference will take place from Friday, November 9 to Monday, November 12. For conference information and registration, visit www.holocaustchild.org or call Susan at 818.606.0793.

Members of GenShoah SWFL will discuss the book *Violins of Hope* at its annual pot luck on Sunday, December 16. Space is very limited for this event and RSVPs to shirleybesikof@gmail.com are required.

The Holocaust Museum will present programs relating to *Violins of Hope* in December. The Museum can be

contacted for more information about these programs and the information will be in Museum newsletters and the GenShoah monthly newsletter. Since GenShoah SWFL is an affinity group of the Holocaust Museum and does not charge a membership, we have requested that all those who receive the GenShoah newsletter and are interested in GenShoah programs become members of the Holocaust Museum. Contact the Museum at 239.263.9200 or visit www.HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org. For more information about GenShoah, email genshoahswfl@gmail.com.

**HUMANISTIC JEWISH HAVURAH
of Southwest Florida****(239) 495-8484****Jasper's bar mitzvah ceremony***Paula Creed*

This summer our oldest grandchild, Jasper, celebrated his bar mitzvah in Maryland, where his family maintains its membership in Machar, The Washington Congregation for Humanistic Judaism (www.machar.org).

Rabbinic Judaism and the informal folk culture defined unique roles for men and women, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters. These rigid guidelines became the heart of an ethical system that remained unchanged until modern times.

The Secular Revolution, with its affirmation of personal dignity, has undermined those structures of the past. The new Jewish family, like most modern families, bears little relationship to the old paradigm. Humanistic Jews do not resist these changes. They test both the old and the new with the measuring stick of dignity. They realize that a

humanistic celebration of Jewish "passages" must be able to embrace what is good in these changes.

The practice of calling a thirteen-year-old boy to read from the Torah is not prescribed in Jewish law and did not begin until the fifteenth century. Thirteen-year-old girls did not obtain this privilege until well into the twentieth century (since, in rabbinic Judaism, participation in Torah reading was reserved for males).

Just as this coming-of-age ceremony has changed through the centuries, Humanistic Judaism has adapted it to the conditions of contemporary Jewish life. Not only the ceremony but its meaning is different.

In classical Judaism, before the age of thirteen a boy was presumed to be under his parents' control. After his thirteenth birthday, the obligation to obey the commandments of the Torah was his own. He was considered part of the adult community – a "son of the commandments."

In modern American society, age thirteen no longer represents the be-

ginning of adulthood. For Humanistic Jews, the bar or bat mitzvah marks the advent of adolescence, a period of searching for one's identity and life path. Thirteen-year-olds can respond to more challenging tasks than were expected of them as children. They can demonstrate greater independence and a depth of thought, competence and commitment.

A Humanistic bar or bat mitzvah provides public encouragement and recognition of the development of these capacities on the road to maturity. It signifies a young person's desire to become more responsible for his or her own decisions and actions, and to identify with the many previous generations of the Jewish people who have done so. For Humanistic Jews, then, bar or bat mitzvah means "son or daughter of responsibility."

How do Humanistic Jews mark this rite of passage? One way is for the young person to choose a Torah portion (not necessarily the prescribed portion of the week) and to read it, along with an original interpretative address. A more radical departure, but

one in keeping both with humanistic principles and with the meaning of the occasion, is for the child to study of the life of a humanistic or Jewish hero, or another appropriate topic. An adult tutor, sometimes the student's parent, supervises the research and the presentation of a paper and a speech summing up its conclusions.

This preparation for a Humanistic bar or bat mitzvah gives a young person the opportunity to grow intellectually, emotionally and spiritually; to develop skills and self-confidence and to experience a meaningful connection to the Jewish people and to humankind. The event provides an opportunity for family and community to join in celebrating and applauding those achievements and to reaffirm their own commitments.

Whatever its form, a Humanistic mitzvah ceremony is gender-neutral. It represents a genuine expression of beliefs and values, and reinforces a link to the celebrant's Jewish roots.

P.S. Jasper's topic was "Jews during the Black Plague."

**JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

(239) 566-1771

Between us Jews

Marina Berkovich

From the very beginning of the Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida journey, the organization received the encouragement and support of the Jewish population of our region, many of whom had been waiting to share their own experiences. Soon the non-Jewish community found the Society's mission interesting and important, and joined in. I am very delighted that Florida's Jewish history matters to everyone, not only to the Jews, who undoubtedly constitute the majority of our members, and whose support and membership are essential to the organization.

Since the Roman War and the Jewish Diaspora that followed, Jews have both mingled with the local population of their destinations and tried to isolate themselves from it and/or its influences. That actually may be the common-sense explanation as to why we still have Jews despite the well-documented persecution our Jewish ancestors had endured for the last two millennia. Of course, the more the Jews differed from the local population, the more attention they drew to themselves. Many who had undergone assimilation tried to hide their Jewish identity. This was often the case in Southwest Florida,

which, as is well known now, was not a safe harbor for Jews. Yet, just as others before them, our SWFL Jewish predecessors have weathered the storms. Some of their history, I am very glad to report, is continuing to be documented and preserved, thanks to the efforts of everyone who already takes the eyewitness historical preservation mission seriously, as well as all future and potential volunteers, members, sponsors and donors.

We are looking forward to a fantastic season and hope you will join us for as many of the fabulous programs we have prepared.

On Sunday, October 28, at the Jewish Congregation of Marco Island, the Society will present two important stories in the Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers series – *When Destiny Calls* and *The Greensteins of Marco Island*, about Elena Rosner, one of the JCMI's founding members, and Lenore Greenstein, widow of a JCMI rabbi and best known now as Director of WCA South. The Jewish Congregation of Marco Island (991 Winterberry Drive) is generously sponsoring this event and the refreshments offered immediately following the screening.

On Wednesday, November 7 at 6:00 p.m., Timeline of Southwest Florida Jewish History will be presented by invitation of the Collier County Museum, located at 3331 Tamiami Trail East, Naples. Kindly direct all inquiries

about this event's details to the Museum or sign up for the JHSSWF email list to be notified closer to the date.

The Society will be celebrating Annual Florida Jewish History Month on January 28 at 3:00 p.m. at Silverspot Cinema at Mercato with Naples' extraordinary longtime residents Judith and Samuel Friedland, whose lives will move you to tears and whose many achievements will most likely be an incredible discovery to many guests attending this celebration, even if they had known the Friedlands for years.

We are continuing our work with the Virtual Museum of Southwest Florida Jewish History at <http://jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org/>. As our collection expands, we are very short of volunteers who understand how to use modern technology. Alternatively, we are looking to find a sponsor for an

employee, whose primary duties will include the Virtual Museum. Please reach out to me if you are able to contribute or know someone who has this skillset and is willing to become a volunteer.

Please note our contact information has changed:
The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida
8805 Tamiami Trail North
Suite # 255
Naples FL 34108
833-547-7935
office@jhsswf.org
www.jhsswf.org

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

**HAZAK 55+ CHAPTER
at Temple Judea**

(239) 433-0201

Jan Klein

Join HAZAK on Sunday, October 7 at 4:00 p.m. in the Temple Judea Social Hall to hear a wonderful presentation entitled "Best of Africa: South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia." Our speakers are Marsha and Mike Kistler and Andy Abrams, three Tem-

ple Judea members who traveled to Africa this year.

After the program join us for dinner at

Sweet Tomatoes on US 41. Reservations are required if you wish to sit with HAZAK.

RSVP by Thursday, October 4 to tjhazak@gmail.com.

All are welcome to attend the meeting, prior to the program, at 3:00 p.m. to help plan future activities.

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

TEMPLE BETH EL

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

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

REFORM
Meets at Sanibel Congregational Church 2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island
Rabbi Stephen L. Fuchs
President: Alan Lessack
Phone: 239-579-0296 (Oct-Apr)
773-251-8862 (May-Sept)
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

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

**SYNAGOGUES &
ORGANIZATIONS**

IN LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE

REFORM
10868 Metro Parkway, South Fort Myers
(The Southwest Florida Masonic Center)
P.O. Box 07144, Fort Myers, FL 33919
Rabbi Bruce Diamond
(bdiamond5@comcast.net)
Coordinator: Natalie Fulton
Adult Educator: Jessica Evers
Phone: (239) 466-6671
E-mail: comfreesyn@gmail.com
Web site: www.fortmyerssynagogue.com
Community Sabbath eve dinner each Friday at 6:30 p.m.
Sabbath eve worship every Friday at 7:30 p.m.
Light breakfast and Torah study with the rabbi every Saturday morning from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

TEMPLE JUDEA

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

CHABAD OF BONITA SPRINGS/ESTERO

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

CHABAD OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

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

CHABAD LUBAVITCH

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

CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

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

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

Heartfelt thanks to the very many C.F.S. volunteers who transform our spacious Community Hall into a wonderful Days of Awe place of worship for hundreds of worshippers, to those who help with the hospitality at the Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah open house and the break-the-fast at the end of Yom Kippur, and to our inspired musicians and vocalists, both volunteer and professional, who help us take our prayers to new heights.

Special thanks to Rosh Hashanah Torah readers Ashlie Clopein, Linda Shuster, Luba Grossman and Nancy Schwartz who read Torah for the congregation on Rosh Hashanah morning. All are graduates of C.F.S. Adult Hebrew Reading Ulpanim and had been called to the Torah as B'not Mitsvah during the year.

We are also indebted to our skilled sukkah builders and those who help organize our festive Feast of Tabernacles celebration that add just the right finishing touches to our sacred autumn holiday season.

Too numerous to name, so many delight in the mitzvah of creating an open, welcoming synagogue home for the entire region! As the traditional benediction puts it: "May the Holy One send abundant blessing and success to

all their undertakings together with all of Israel their people, and say we all, Amen!"

The Community Free Synagogue is pleased to welcome Joseph Brauer to its Sabbath Eve musical ensemble Yedid Nephesh. Brauer is a professional musician and actor who works with Florida Repertory Theatre, Gulfshore Playhouse, the Bonita Springs Centers for the Performing Arts, and TheatreZone. He is also the Director of Music for All Faiths Unitarian Congregation.

Joseph developed his diverse keyboard skill through Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music, as well as



Joseph Brauer

playing with ensembles such as Canadian Celtic folk band Crooked Jack and North Dakota alt-rock band Books About Ships. Having grown up in Northern Manitoba, Canada, he completed his BFA at North Dakota State

University/Challey School of Music.

Brauer joins flutist Laurie McConville and vocalists Richard McConville and Traci Pavel.

Torah Study is postponed on Sabbath morning, October 6 while Rabbi Diamond is the visiting scholar at Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation in New Hampshire.

The next C.F.S. "Brown Bag Movie Night" takes place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 18. It features *Menasha* (2017), the story of a Hassid in Brooklyn trying to raise a son on his own and the many traditional obstacles he faces. Pack your dinner; admission and soft drinks are free.

Mother and daughter Arline and Samantha Gallentine will be called to the Torah as adult B'not Mitsvah during Sabbath eve worship on Friday, October 19. They are graduates of Auxiliary Rabbi Thomas Miess' Hebrew Reading Ulpan and have gone on to study with Auxiliary Rabbi Terry Goldberg for this special occasion.

Our June 4-15, 2019, Israel Pilgrimage with the Rabbi is starting to fill up (see the story in this issue). We limit our group size to 26 participants, so please be sure to get your application in if you are planning to join us. For more details and to download your application, visit the C.F.S. website at www.fortmyerssynagogue.com or email pilgrimage coordinator Arnie Harris at arnieh@embarqmail.com.

Each Friday evening at 6:30 p.m., The Community Free Synagogue serves a traditional Sabbath dinner. It

is free and reservations are never required. At 7:30 p.m., the Sabbath is welcomed with prayer and song. A coffee hour follows worship.

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

Now in its 14th year, The Community Free Synagogue is an independent synagogue and valued community religious resource. All of its events and programs, including youth and adult Jewish education, are open to all and always free.

The foundation of The Community Free Synagogue is "Study, Worship and Benevolent Acts," generally following progressive Jewish traditions.

C.F.S.'s founder and leader, Rabbi Bruce Diamond, D.D., a distinguished ordainee of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, marks his 21st year of leadership in the Fort Myers Jewish community. He is also a Super Adjunct Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University, focusing on community ethics and activism.

Rabbi Diamond is assisted by Auxiliary Rabbis Thomas Meiss and Terri Goldberg, graduates of C.F.S.'s 3-year Community Rabbi Program.

The synagogue meets at the Southwest Florida Masonic Center, 10868 Metro Parkway in South Fort Myers. For more information, please visit www.fortmyerssynagogue.com.

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

As is customary with small Jewish organizations, it is volunteers who make all the difference and keep the proverbial wheels of Temple Bat Yam turning. Many of Bat Yam's members serve in multiple roles. There are volunteers on the boards and committees. It is volunteers who put up the sukkah, plan the community Seder, set up for Friday evening Shabbat services, make presentations for Saturday morning Adult Education, conduct services from May to September, compose the monthly bulletin, update the website, blow the shofar, provide delicious foods for the Onegs and holiday celebrations, organize the break-the-fast, continue the honey project, etc., etc.

Recognition of those who help make Bat Yam such a vibrant community is important. In no particular

order, the volunteers are: Alan Lessack, Edina Lessack, Annette Pacyga, Sue Danford, Peter Danford, Susan Arnoff Spohr, Barry Fulmer, Michael Hochschild, Tanya

Hochschild, Barry Epstein, Barbara Epstein, Marcia Rudin, James Rudin, Bob Schoen, Caren Schoen, Miriam Bailey, Becky Kon, Esther Pokedoff, Marty Pokedoff, Leonard Minsky, Renee Minsky, Lois Lorsch, Howard Lorsch, Garry Weiss, Beth Weiss, Norma Kohn, Jack Kohn, Marty Packard, Enid Packard, Tobi Mackler, Steve Fischer, Jeanette Keyser, Al Kaplan, Mickie Kaplan, Paula Raboy, Paulette Lotstein, James Lotstein, Kathy Zoss, Michael Samet, Elissa Karasin Samet, Esta Berger, David Berger, Myra Klahr, Mel Bleiberg, Allan Sacks, Sallie Sacks, Bonnie Kasdan, Renee Sugar, Joel Sugar, Barry Litofsky, Barry Solomon, Jay Solomon, Vickie Fuchs, Toby Simon, Peggy Siegel, Frank Siegel, Evelyn Clark, Herb Clark, Judith Mayer, Howard Mayer, Shirley Frank, By-

ron Frank, Helene Smith, Alan Smith, Sandy Berke, Stuart Berke, Stan Zell, Susan Rosenberg, Ken Gerson, Bluma Herman, Don Herman, Irene Skolnick, Leon Skolnick, Salessa Berk, Marvin Berk, Arlen Stein, Irwin Stein, Shirley Boscov, Andrea Smith, Jan Smith, Linda Edinburg, Joel Edinburg, Patti Levine, Stan Levine, Ed Greenberg, Nancy Greenberg, Alan Parker, Linda Parker, Phyllis Pachman, Ben Yokel, Bernie Lubetkin, Beverly Lubetkin, Adele Anish, Steve Anish, Mary Kay Sadighi, Parvis Sadighi, Sharon Barton, Stan Barton, Linda Drasnin, Barry Roth, Ying Przybyszewski, Carol Schieber, Phil Schieber, Louise Freeman, Deborah Gurman, Don Breiter, Judith Adler, Louise Freeman, Judy Wald, Michael Feingold, Ellen Feingold, Leah Friedman, Mickey Nathanson, Gay Adelstein, Morton Levy, Roselyn Kraus, Margie Peppercorn, Mark Peppercorn, Peter Saltz, Jocelyn Saltz and others.

Of course, Bat Yam flourishes with the guidance of Rabbi Stephen Fuchs and Cantor Murray Simon. Therefore,

a great big thank you very much, "todah rabah" (Hebrew), "merci beaucoup" (French), "muchas gracias" (Spanish), "danke schoen" (German), "grazie mille" (Italian), "bol'shoye spasibo" (Russian), "feichang ganxieni" (Chinese), "tashakkor mikonam" (Persian) and "dziekujebardzo" (Polish) to everyone.

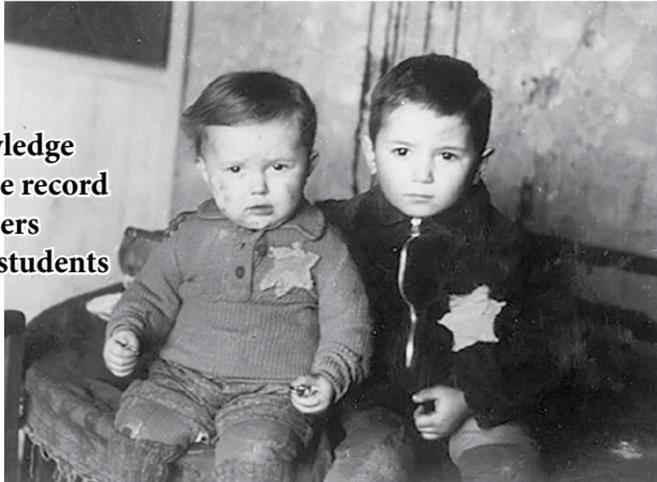
Although those of you who live in Southwest Florida year-round don't need a reminder, it was just over a year ago that Hurricane Irma struck the region. This year, it is many colors of toxic algae that are harming the environment and inhabitants of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caloosahatchee River. The Bat Yam Social Action Committee seeks to help make a positive difference in the lives of those who struggle on Sanibel and surrounding communities.

The High Holy Days, Sukkot and Simchat Torah are behind us. No matter whether you worshipped and celebrated with the Bat Yam family or your family and friends elsewhere, may the year ahead be healthy and peaceful for all of us.

Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies

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**TEMPLE BETH EL
Fort Myers**

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

For children, Jewish learning can be an exciting adventure, acquiring knowledge of Judaism's values and traditions in a playful manner. It's never too early to start. "Knowledge acquired in childhood is not soon forgotten." – The Talmud

Two of Rabbi Luna's programs, "Babies and Bagels" and "Tot Shabbat," allow parents and their youngsters to share warm emotional experiences while becoming familiar with prayers, songs and rituals in a safe and nurturing setting. Supporting a strong Jewish identity, engaging young and interfaith families with their youngsters paves their way to future involvement in synagogue life.

Often, children's love of music leads them to attend Friday night services. Hannah, for example, has been attending services since she was a baby. During services, her grandmother would pat her back as she fell asleep to Jewish music. Now nine years old, Hannah attends on Friday nights because, she says, "I love to see everyone and I enjoy being Jewish. My mom is in the choir, and I like singing Jewish songs."

Music influences and inspires our Sunday school students. Morah Randy

Kashi teaches age-appropriate music for the kids to sing, emphasizing songs their parents knew from their childhood so families can enjoy singing together at home.

From finger games with the younger ones to more traditional songs with older kids, they learn how to sing in front of the congregation and to lead services approaching their bar/bat mitzvah. They develop confidence for chanting Torah before the congregation. For more information about these programs and about Sunday school, call Temple Beth El at 239.433.0018.

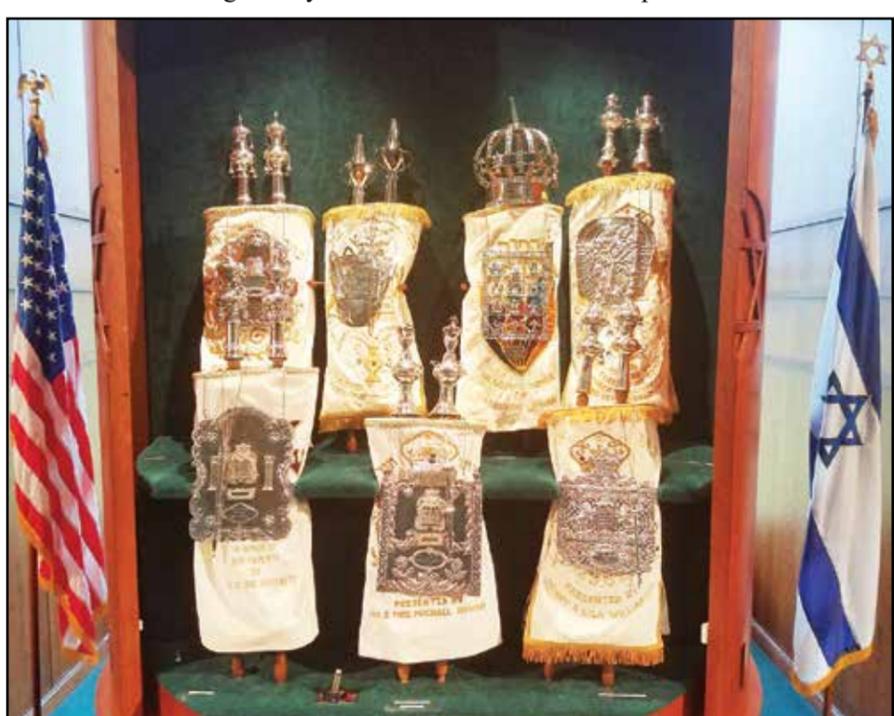
In Lee County, Temple Beth El is the largest congregation and the only member synagogue of the Union for Reform Judaism. Temple Beth El is the oldest Jewish congregation in Southwest Florida, established in 1954, and boasts the only ordained rabbi who is a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Our ordained cantor has lifelong cantorial training and is an ACC (American Conference of Cantors) member. The profound knowledge and experience of our clergy is the reason our members enjoy authentic worship services, festivals and life cycle events.

September 1 saw dozens of congregants and guests gathered in the Dubin Center (social hall) of Temple Beth El to partake of a festive, pre-Selichot assortment of mouthwatering cakes, pastries, home-made chocolate-dipped

coconut macaroons and cookies. A meaningful Havdalah service was held just prior to the Selichot service. The colorful everyday Torah covers were changed to the High Holy Days' traditional white mantles, adorned with freshly polished silver adornments. Why white? "White is seen as the color of joy, and we rejoice on Erev Yom Kippur, confident that our sins will be forgiven (~Responsa in a Moment, Sept. 2015)."

Temple Beth El is privileged to own seven beautiful Torahs, several of which have been donated by TBE families over its long history in South-

west Florida. Mantle changes were made by mother-daughter teams plus new and established members of the congregation. Preparation for Selichot, the kickoff of the High Holy Days, required the helping hands of many individuals to make it joyous and successful. *Todah rabah* to the entire TBE office and maintenance staff; Dottie and Bob Ruberto; Carolyn Gora; the Torah mantle changers and Torah carriers; Randy Kashi; Phyllis and Berny Aronson; Cantor Bessman; and Rabbi Luna. Extra special thanks to Jay Sax, who removed all the Torahs from the Ark and then replaced them.



Temple Beth El's seven beautiful Torahs

**TEMPLE JUDEA
Fort Myers**

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

The new year is off to a busy start at Temple Judea. On Friday evening, September 28 the congregation will celebrate the Consecration of third-grade religious school students during Shabbat evening services, followed by a dinner in the sukkah. The service is open to all; reservations are needed for the dinner. Please call the synagogue office.

Temple Judea follows the Israeli calendar for festival observance. On Sunday evening, September 30, we will celebrate Simchat Torah with a spaghetti dinner and then a lively and fun service. Music and dancing will accompany the end of reading the Torah, with the start of reading it again. The following morning, Yizkor will be said during Simchat Torah services.

Last year, congregants Marsha and Mike Kistler and Andi Abrams went to Africa. They will share experiences from their trip with HAZAK on Sunday, October 7 at 4:00 p.m. at the temple. Participants are invited to join everyone at Sweet Tomatoes for dinner

after the presentation. To RSVP, email tjhzak@gmail.com.

Adult Education classes begin on Monday, October 8 and will continue for eight weeks.

Rabbi Sack will teach two classes. From 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. is his "Introduction to Judaism." It is a prerequisite for anyone considering conversion, but also open to those just wanting to learn more about Jewish practice, thought and history. From 7:45 to 8:45 p.m., participants will be reading and discussing *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* by Yossi Klein Halevi.

That same night, Rabbi Michael Schorin will teach The Mystery of Love by Marc Gafni, the x-rated side of Jewish mysticism. Rabbi Schorin's class will take place from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. From 7:45 to 8:45 p.m., Herb Fried will teach "Crazy Herb's Hebrew Words" – a memory system for learning Jewish culture and modern Hebrew.

The Adult Education classes are open to the community. If you are interested in attending, please call the synagogue office.

Chaverot, Temple Judea's Sisterhood, is beginning a monthly Rosh Hodesh program. This Holiday for Women that celebrates the beginning

of each month, will have its first get-together on Tuesday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Mindi Simon. It will be an evening of learning, laughter and light refreshments. RSVP by Thursday, October 4 to Jan Klein.

Our shlichah, Zohar ben Hamu, will lead a Young Leadership program for high school students. The purpose of the program is to prepare the teens to transition from the local Jewish community to college, to teach them about Israel and the Middle East, and to enrich them with skills that will help them in their adult lives. The program will meet every two weeks on a Thursday from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Federation building. There will be eight sessions, with the last session being held at the Israel embassy in Miami. It is an exciting and important program open to all Jewish teenagers in the community. Please call the synagogue office for more information.

Zohar will also teach an Israeli cooking class beginning on Thursday, October 25. The class is sponsored by Chaverot. Call the synagogue office if you are interested in participating.

There will be an AIPAC-sponsored program at Temple Judea on Wednesday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m. Asaf Romirowsky, PHD, Executive Director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle

East, will be the featured speaker. His topic is "Combating the Delegitimization of Israel." There is no cost to attend. To register, please visit www.aipac.org/templejudea.

Rabbi Sack's monthly lunchtime Torah study begins again on Thursday, October 4 at noon at the offices of Myers and Brettholtz and Company. It is an hour of open discussion of Torah and Judaism, where all levels of background and all questions are encouraged. Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to attend.

Our monthly serving of meals at the Salvation Army's Meals with Compassion continues. Meals are now served on Monday evenings and volunteers are need for Mondays, October 8 and October 22. Please contact Linda at lindaaidelson8@gmail.com to help.

Regular scheduled events:

- Friday evening Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m., preceded each week with a wine and cheese reception starting at 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday morning Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Kiddush luncheon
- Lunchtime Torah Study with Rabbi Sack the first Thursday of each month
- Morning minyan every Monday at 9:00 a.m.

**TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
Cape Coral**

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

It seems strange, as you read this, that the holidays will soon be over, but as I write, they have just begun. We slowed down a little over the summer to catch our breath before going full steam ahead as the new year begins. In reality, members of the congregation didn't just kick back over the summer and relax. Many members met to plan activities, make repairs on the building and grounds, organize the High Holiday services, break the fast, create fundraisers and more.

Just a sampling of our events: We have two Bar Mitzvahs coming up; our first social outing of the season was a trip to the Broadway Palm to see *Let's*

Go To the Movies. Sisterhood has planned a Purse & Jewelry Auction on Sunday, November 4.

Football fans of all ages, come participate in our very successful fundraiser. Last year we were able to gather enough funds to repair our sound system. You pick four pro football teams for the week and if they win, you win. The cost is \$5 per week. If you have any questions or would like to join, please contact Arnie Schwartz at arnienature@hotmail.com.

As always we welcome guests to all of our social and fundraising events, as well as Torah Study on Saturday mornings, brown bag lunch every other Wednesday, bowling on Sundays, religious school for the children, and much more. Call the temple office for more information.

While we look forward to all of the

fun and educational events of the season, we like to emphasize that we are a warm and nurturing community where

all are welcome. Come see what we have to offer and maybe become part of our family.

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