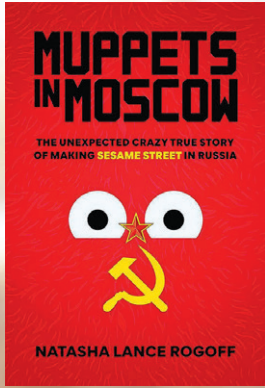


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COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023



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L'CHAYIM

Published by the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

October 2023 / 5783

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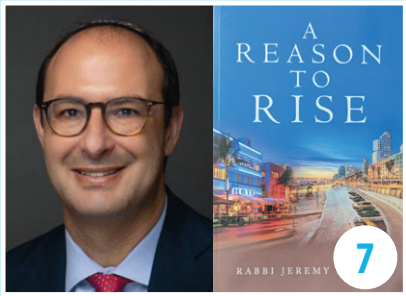
Volume 46, Number 2

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“Challah Prince” coming to SWFL
Idan Chabasov is masterful at creating unique and creative challah bread braiding techniques. Don't miss this event!



An evening with Rabbi Jeremy Barras
Inspiring author and speaker Rabbi Barras will discuss his new book of fiction, “A Reason to Rise.”

New beginnings

By Marsha Kistler, Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties Board Chair

As I sit here contemplating the soon to be upon us High Holy-days (written in early September for publication in the October issue), I am aware of how lucky I am to have the opportunity to be away from home for a couple of months. In addition to the obvious benefits that time away affords (not the least of which is a moderate climate), I'm struck by a not-so-obvious perspective, that of living with less. We both appreciate the totally uncluttered environment of our holiday accommodation. It's not just physical things that clutter our lives. When we're away from home, we have days on end with no must-do activities, time to relax, talk, walk, ride bikes and meander on the many trails around Brewster, MA. We resolve to make our home and lives less cluttered when we return.



■ Marsha Kistler

And, just as the High Holiday season signals new beginnings, activities at Federation are ramping up. Hopefully,

you've had a chance to visit our new digs at the expanded JFS/United Way House (Suite 3 of the Jewish Federation building), an exciting expansion that has allowed us to help even more community members in need. While there, introduce yourself to Silvia Garcia, our new case manager and food pantry coordinator.

In the September issue of *L'Chayim*, Jodi Cohen wrote about Sharing Shabbat, our newest outreach program happening at senior facilities, enabling residents of these communities to welcome in Shabbat in a festive, meaningful manner.

Danielle Bernstein, our new program coordinator, is busy planning events for both our PJ Library families as well as our senior singles. And she promises a most interesting speaker for our Community Breakfast on Dec. 10 — mark your calendars! Much of this expanded staff and programming

is made possible through the extraordinary efforts of Debbie Sanford and her grant-writing skills.

And, in the same vein of new beginnings, a community member approached Debbie and me earlier this summer with the idea of a community campus. A community campus could house multiple Jewish organizations from Lee and Charlotte counties and possibly include a JCC. This concept would make us more fiscally responsible by sharing the cost (on one campus) of management, services and security while allowing each organization to focus on delivering their specialty services and maintain their unique identity.

We would be happy to explain this concept to you in more detail. Please don't hesitate to contact us. We would now like to form an exploratory committee to investigate this idea more fully. If this piques your interest, please get in touch with Debbie or me.

Wishing you and your families, Shana Tova U'metuka and Shalom al Yisrael. 🌍

JOIN US FOR THESE EVENTS:

Shalom Singles – Oct. 10, 6-8 p.m. and Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m.

“Challah Prince” – Dec. 18, 6-8 p.m.

Jewish Film Festival – Feb. 1 – Feb. 29 (various times)

Author Event with Rabbi Barras – Nov. 8, 7 p.m.



Sharing Shabbat – Oct. 6, 1:30 p.m. and Oct. 27, 4:30 p.m.

Lunch Bunch – Oct. 9, Noon-1:30 p.m.

Shabbat at Sea – March 1, 2024

Mahjong – Tuesdays, 12-3 p.m.

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

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

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**NOVEMBER ISSUE
 EDITORIAL
 DEADLINE:
 Monday, October 9**

Enriching seniors' lives through creativity and companionship

A heartwarming update on the Friendly Visitor Program

By Nancy Klein, Friendly Visitor Coordinator

In the middle of all the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, let's not forget about our seniors — they're pretty awesome. The Friendly Visitor Program gets this, and it's doing something pretty cool to help ease loneliness in the lives of local seniors. It's about volunteers and seniors hanging out and having a good time.

So, here are the details on what's been happening lately. This program is all about forming connections. It's not your regular small talk; it's real conversations and activities that seniors actually like. This past year, things have been ramping up, and seniors are loving it. They're getting artsy with painting and crafting, which is fantastic because it lets them express themselves and feel accomplished.

But wait, there's more. Seniors are getting their nails done and chatting up a storm while doing it. A little bit of pampering can go a long way and it makes them feel special. Healthy living is also a big deal here. Seniors and volunteers are teaming up to make healthy snacks and, while they're at it, they're swapping tips and stories.

Staying active and mobile is part of the game too. Keeping the body active also helps stimulate the mind. Seniors and volunteers are taking walks around



the neighborhood, getting some exercise and having some heart-to-heart talks.

And here's where things get really cute — therapy dogs are in the picture. They're hanging out with the seniors, bringing loads of joy and smiles to their faces. Who doesn't love a good smooch from a dog? We also have some robotic dogs and cats in the mix as well. They're not the real deal, but they respond to touch and voices, offering companionship. Let me know if you know of someone who might benefit from a therapy dog or if you would like to get your dog registered so that you can help.

Looking at how far the Friendly Visitor Program has come; it is pretty awesome, but we can go even further! It's a reminder that connecting with our seniors is a big deal. With every stroke

of a paintbrush, every chat over a nail polish session and every dog wag, the bond between generations gets stronger.

In a world that often forgets its seniors, this program stands out. It's like a bit of time and care can really make their day. As this program keeps growing, just imagine how many more lives it'll brighten up and stories it'll create.

If you want to get in on this good vibe train, think about joining the Friendly Visitor Program. We are looking for volunteers who can commit an hour a week on a long-term basis to spend time with the seniors. You won't just be making seniors' lives better; you'll be making memories that count.

To learn more, contact me at Nancy Klein@jfedlcc.org or call 239-481-4449, ext. 2. 📞



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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.

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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).

Wellness, Singles and the “Challah Prince”

By Danielle Bernstein, Special Events and Program Coordinator

Hello everyone. I can't express enough how grateful I am for the warm welcome and support from this incredible community as I've settled in. I'm finally adjusting and getting into a good rhythm. I still have a lot to learn but I'm excited for what's to come!

Our summer wellness classes have officially come to an end but maybe not for good. We're thinking about keeping the wellness train rolling during the upcoming season. What do you all think? Please share your thoughts and let me know if there's a particular time that suits you better.

Now, let me share some exciting news. We recently hosted our First Shalom Singles event at LYNQ, and it was an absolute hit! To start the evening off, we indulged everyone with appetizers, followed by an enjoyable ice-breaker activity to get everyone talking. For those who couldn't make it, don't worry! We're thrilled to announce that our next Shalom Singles event is just around the corner, scheduled for Oct. 10. We can't wait to see all of your familiar faces and, hopefully, some new ones, too.

But wait, there's more! Brace yourselves because we have a special



guest coming all the way from Israel. You might know him as the “Challah Prince” on Instagram, but his real name is Idan Chabasov. He's a master when it comes to creating unique and creative challah bread braiding techniques. Mark Dec. 18 on your calendar because you won't want to miss this bread-making extravaganza!

Lastly, we're thrilled to announce our upcoming big film festival in February, and sponsorship opportunities are now open! This exciting cinematic event will be held at Regal Bell Tower, running from Feb. 1 through Feb. 29,

with two matinees held on a Sunday. Festival passes will be available starting in November, so mark your calendars! If you have any questions or know someone interested in sponsoring this event, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We look forward to making this festival an unforgettable experience!

As we move forward, there's a bunch of exciting programs and events coming up. If you have any questions or ideas, or if you'd like to get involved in volunteering for our upcoming events, I can be reached at Danielleb@jfedlcc.org or 239-481-4449, ext 4. 📞

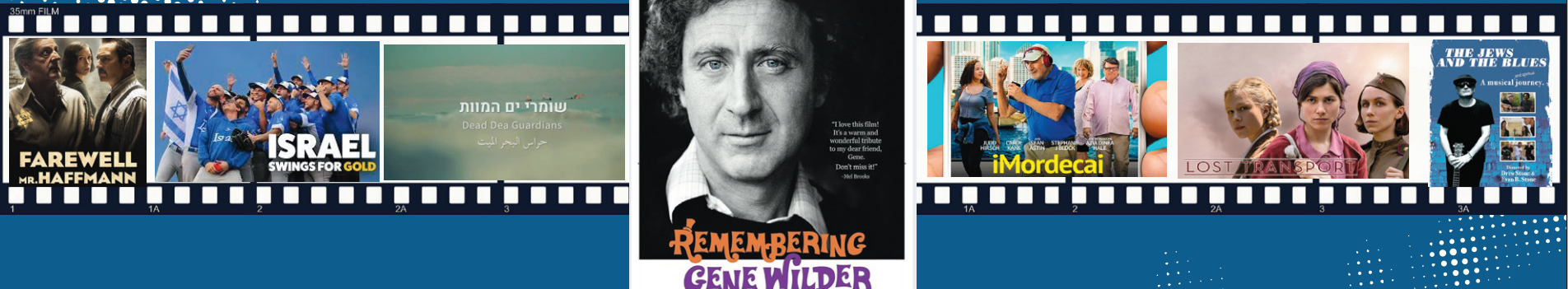


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Magic web of protection

By Rabbi Michael J. Schorin, MAPC, BCC

Do you remember “Charlotte’s Web” by E.B. White? I hope you do. It is the story of a little girl named Fern and her friendship for a little pig named Wilbur and how Charlotte, the spider, wove a magical web that saved Wilbur’s life. Yes, I am aware that pigs are “traif” but this story is “glatt kosher.”

I am remembering “Charlotte’s Web” because I was driving home recently when all traffic stopped. My thoughts and feelings were less than gracious: “What can it be this time?” “Are the traffic lights out – again?” “Maybe it is someone driving their golf cart to the store?” “Could it be another Florida Man story come home to roost?”

Finally, traffic started moving again and I discovered it was none of these. All the traffic had stopped because there was a baby turtle trying to cross the road. (Why the turtle wanted to cross the road could be the subject



■ Rabbi Dr. Michael J. Schorin

of a great joke, but we will leave that for another time.) How fantastic! All the cars in both directions stopped and nobody even honked their horn — all for a baby turtle. (Obviously, we weren’t in Manhattan any longer.) I trust we would do the same for an errant egret, a slippery squirrel or even for a wacky rabbit.

This incident left me wondering if the turtle knew how special s/he was? For me, it was as if Charlotte had become real and had spun her web proclaiming this was a “Special Turtle.” Whether this turtle was a snapping one or not, whether s/he was destined for a pot of turtle soup, it didn’t matter at this point. What mattered was that we put our cars in pause to let it pass.

I can’t tell you how important turtles are in the divine economy. Maybe King Solomon, who could speak with the animals, would know, but I don’t. What I do know is that according to our Torah and our sages, we humans

are very important. That is why we are told “we are but little lower than the angels.” Do we sin occasionally? Of course. Do we miss the mark? Probably more often than we want to admit. Do we sometimes get unnerved by some of the prayers we recite on the High Holidays? Sure.

Just by living, we stick our necks out daily.

The “U’netanah Tokef” prayer with “who by fire and who by water” is not my favorite prayer. So, as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur approach, let us imagine Hashem is weaving a very special web around each of us. Not that we are perfect or do not need to improve, but that we are spiritual beings in training. James Bryan Conant once said, “Behold, the turtle. He makes progress only when he

sticks his neck out.” Just by living, we stick our necks out daily.

Human beings, according to Abraham-Hicks (“Ask and It Is Given”), have not been sent here in a test or trial; we are here as creators, as part of an ever-expanding universe. As you visualize this coming new year, what do you want to script into it?

Sure, for some of us, there will always be an axe hanging over Wilbur’s neck. The state fair will come to an end and Fern will need to go back to school. There will be massive wildfires and horrific hurricanes. We know that racism, antisemitism and hatred will not likely disappear just yet.

As you observe and celebrate these holidays, picture your year filled with health and happiness, and any other blessings you would like to receive. My wish for all of us is to have Hashem weave a magic web around Israel and us proclaiming to be “A Special People.” 🌟



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

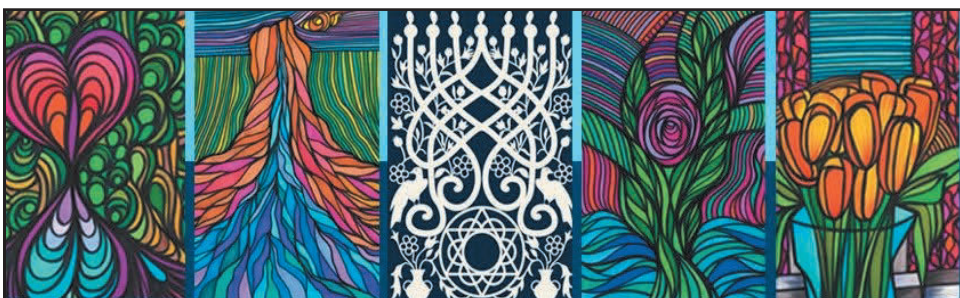


This year please consider making an additional campaign contribution in honor or memory of a loved one. Because kindness is contagious, we would like to highlight your generosity in L'CHAYIM and notify personally those whom you honor. You may choose how your generosity is noted and how we share your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



TRIBUTES

In Memory of Judy Freling 10/26/2019
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HOW THE JEWISH FEDERATION SERVES

Local Jewish Education and Culture

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



Overseas

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

Jewish Community Foundation

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



Jewish Family Services

A division of the Jewish Federation
of Lee & Charlotte Counties

Local Seniors Services

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

Local Social Services

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

Local Emergency Services

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

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



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

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Coordinates of love and appreciation

Jewish Family Services update

By Jodi Cohen, Jewish Family Services Coordinator

First things first: we are human beings, not human doings. Yet, as a human being, the first thing I think about upon waking is, "What's on my to-do list today?" I am always future-hopping. My attempts at reminding myself to breathe, to meditate, to talk to God are usually met with, "One moment, just a minute, please hold."

There are certain rituals, though, that ground me in the present. When I take Morty out at night, I always offer up prayers to the moon. During Saturday morning Shabbat services, I calm down in a way that I am not able to anywhere else. And gratitude. Gratitude always aligns my heart with the coordinates of love and appreciation.

I am reminded every single day that working at the Federation is a privilege. Helping people is a core value. Providing resources ignites hope.

Hillel asked, "If not now, when?" And all I can think is: Now. Now. Now.

I'm consistently surprised by the phenomenal human beings who live



■ Jodi Cohen

here, in our very own, South west Floridian corner of the universe. Within the last two days, I've been invited to lunch by two different Federation members. They are each interesting, skilled at building community and will inevitably inspire ideas for programs and outreach that I never would have thought of on my own.

I met new volunteers who helped pack the Rosh Hashanah gift bags that will be delivered throughout the community. I had an insightful conversation with another volunteer about connection and compassion. This afternoon, I heard the pantry volunteers heartily welcome a woman who was visiting for the first time and seemed a little nervous.

Although I feel like my default status is meshugge, with a side of humor, I am present enough to notice people's goodness shining brightly at the surface, and even reflecting some of my own back at me. I'll take it. I'll take it all.

B'shalom. 🌸



Gift bag volunteers Alan Lessack, Julia Perry, Roz Schrair, Denny Toblek and Diane Ivey. Not pictured: Laurie Morris and Judy Litman. Volunteers who delivered bags throughout the community included Francesca Pluskar, Julia Perry, Linat Bahar and Rabbi Nicole Luna with Zara and Iris Luna Bord.

Author event with Rabbi Barras

The Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties and Temple Beth El are thrilled to sponsor an evening with author Rabbi Jeremy Barras. On **Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m. in the Temple Beth El Social Hall**, Rabbi Barras will discuss his new book of fiction, "A Reason to Rise."

If you have lived in our community for over a decade, then you should recognize the name Rabbi Jeremy Barras. Rabbi Barras served as the Rabbi for Temple Beth El for eight years, 2007-2015. Currently, he is the Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth Am in Miami, the largest Reform synagogue in the Southeast.

His book was written to provide inspiration for American Jews to embrace their Zionist responsibilities. His first book of fiction was inspired by his great-grandparents, his grandparents, Holocaust survivors and great Zionists that he has known over the years. One of the

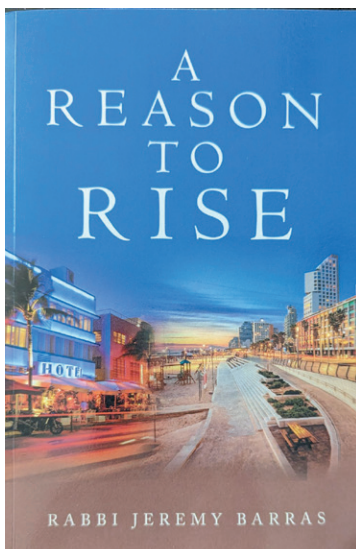


■ Rabbi Jeremy Barras

great Zionists that he had the great fortune to work with included one of his and Fort Myer's heroes, Paul Simko (z'l).

Come hear about Rabbi Barras' fictional characters Rabbi Sam Groh's and his grandson, Rabbi Ethan Groh's, adventures around the world, spanning from 1946 to the present. As the book cover states, "In A Reason to Rise," the Groh rabbinic dynasty takes the reader on an international journey of the Jewish experience in the 20th century. From the depths of the Holocaust to the establishment of the state of Israel, to the systematic rise of antisemitism across Europe, one family does their part to keep Judaism alive."

Rabbi Barras is an inspiring speaker (as his past congregants can attest to). Books may be purchased through Amazon and will be available for purchase at the event. Light homemade refreshments will be served. 🌸



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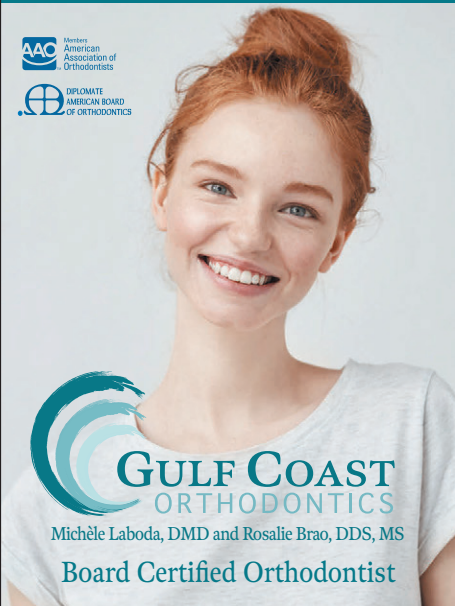
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Don't miss the return of human rights films and Zoom panelists

“Movies that Matter”

By Jeff Margolis

Mark your calendars for the sixth annual Southwest Florida human rights film series, Movies That Matter (MTM), the Steve Brazina Memorial Film Series. October 18, 25 and Nov. 1 are the dates of the panel discussions, but registrants will receive a link a week prior so that they can view the film at home or with friends. These films are carefully selected by committee members who want to focus on extremely important contemporary human rights issues as well as issues that individuals in our community can find ways they can make a difference.

People are still speaking about how impacted they were by last year's films and this year's will be equally impactful. These films will give you more than

facts. They will open your eyes and your heart.

Certainly, people know that there is poverty in the richest country in the world, but the film “Poor Kids” explores what poverty means to children in America. The children tell their stories and are revisited a half decade later. The expert panel will discuss this film on Oct. 18 at 4 p.m.

On Oct. 25 at 4 p.m., a panel will discuss more than what you saw on the news about the deadly attack in a synagogue in Pittsburgh. “Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life,” a Not In Our Town film, documents Pittsburgh's powerful community response to hate and antisemitism in the aftermath of the murder of 11 people in the Tree of Life Synagogue. “Through the



voices of survivors and family members as well as diverse Pittsburgh residents and leaders, the film shows unity in a moment of crisis, the residents of a vibrant city and a community working together to understand what it meant to be ‘stronger than hate.’”

Speakers scheduled will give us great insight into important things happening in our community to bring people together and combat hate.

The final discussion for this year's “Movies That Matter” presentation is set for Nov. 1 at 4 p.m. “The Invisible Class” explores what it truly means to be homeless in America, challenging the stereotypes and examining the systemic causes of mass homelessness across America. So that viewers do not think that there is nothing that can be done, in addition to the expert panel, the committee suggested also viewing “Beyond Homelessness:

Finding Hope,” for which a link will also be provided.

There is no cost this year, but sponsorships are available, and donations are always appreciated. To make sure that you are part of the only human rights film series in Southwest Florida, simply visit www.HHMCEC.org and go to Events. A reservation at the above website will ensure that you receive the link to the films and panel discussions. This is also the site that will allow you to make donations or become a sponsor.

“Movies That Matter: The Steve Brazina Memorial Film Series” is a collaborative effort of the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center, GenShoah of SWFL, Temple Shalom, Jewish Federation of Greater Naples, Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council, the Interfaith Alliance of SWFL, BRIDGES and Naples United Church of Christ. 🌍



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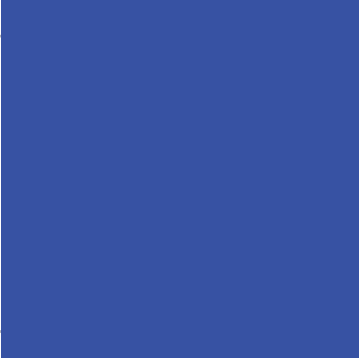
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At the Museum this fall

By Susan Suarez, President & CEO

Welcome to fall! We have an exciting lineup of programs and events for you to enjoy. Read below for details and become a member of the Museum to support our mission.

North Wing update

We've reached the end of our expansion project! Capitol Museum Services is currently installing new exhibits in both the new North Wing and the existing museum. We plan to tentatively reopen to the public Oct. 31.

One portion of the North Wing recently opened — the new Herbert H. Schiff Classroom. It hosted an information session for Grand Living, a new Senior Residential community opening in 2024 in North Naples. This spacious room is available to our community for rental and can accommodate up to 70 people. If your organization is interested in holding a meeting there, please contact Museum Education Specialist David Nelson at David@hmcec.org for more information.

Grand reopening programs

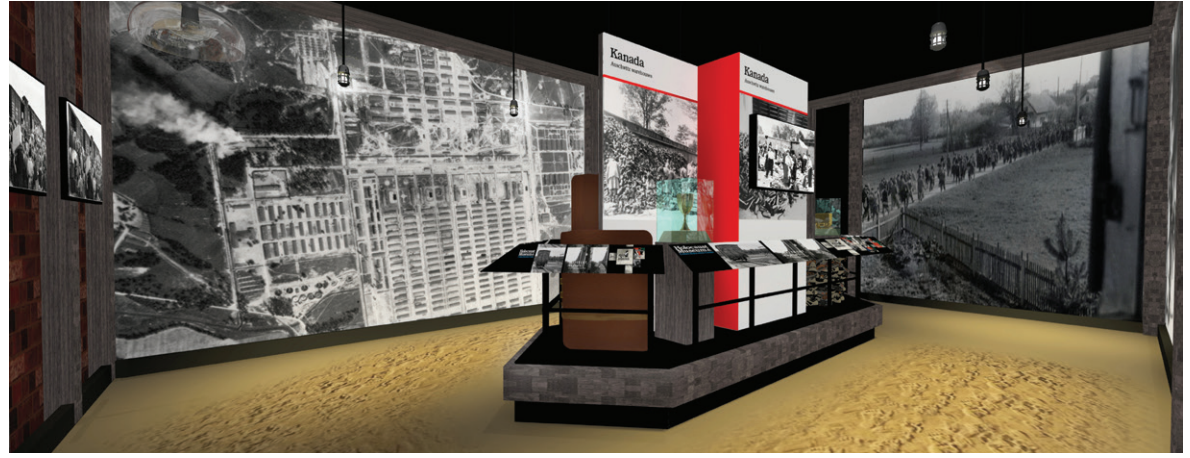
In order to celebrate our reopening to the community, we are offering two special programs. On Saturday, Nov. 4, we will offer a Family Day with children's activities. On Saturday, Nov. 11, in honor of Veterans Day, we will offer a special program and complimentary museum admission.



■ Susan Suarez

"Forgeries and The Holocaust" exhibit

After WWII ended, forgeries of Holocaust-related items abounded. This exhibit will explore examples of articles that were sold or collected as "genuine." Included among them are several artifacts donated to the Museum, which research later determined were forgeries. We'll also review some common methods used by forgers over the years,



as well as instances where forgeries were used not to deceive collectors, but German authorities, saving thousands of lives across Europe. The exhibit will be on display in the new Estelle and Stuart Price Gallery through December 2023.

Movies that Matter

The 2023 Movies that Matter – Steve Brazina Memorial Film Series begins

prior to each discussion to watch at your convenience. Sponsorships are available. Please visit our website, HMCEC.org, for more information. Movies that Matter is presented by the Museum, GenShoah SWFL, Interfaith Alliance, Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of Greater Naples, Naples United Church of Christ and Temple Shalom.

The Luncheon

We hope you will save the date and join us for "The Luncheon" Dec. 6 at Vineyards Country Club. The event raises funds for our education programs. You will see a special performance of "Letters from Anne and Martin" from the Anne Frank Center in New York. The performance is a short, two-person reading of the most memorable writings of Anne Frank and Dr. Martin Luther King, who were both born in 1930, yet lived in vastly different worlds. Tickets are \$150, and sponsorships are now available. Please visit HMCEC.org for more information.

Fund a student field trip

Now that school is back in session, we invite you to consider funding a student field trip to the Museum. Our Holocaust education programs are so important in informing students about the consequences of hate and bigotry, and of their power to stand up and do the right thing to act against bigotry and hatred. Please contact me for more information at Susan@hmcec.org.

We look forward to seeing you at the new North Wing and updated Museum! 🌍

this month. Three important human rights issues will be discussed on the following Zoom programs:

- Oct. 18 – "Poor Kids," highlighting the impact of poverty on children in America
- Oct. 25 – "Repairing the World," showing the response of the Pittsburgh community to the attack on the 2018 Tree of Life Synagogue
- Nov. 1 – "The Invisible Class," reviewing the stereotypes and systemic causes associated with homelessness in America

Each Zoom discussion program will take place from 4 to 5 p.m. Eastern Time (U.S. and Canada) and feature local experts on the subjects and a Q&A. Film links will be provided



"Movies That Matter" Steve Brazina Memorial Film Series Discussion Programs with Expert Panels/Q&A

We hope you'll join us for these important discussions of Human Rights topics affecting SWFL, and learn how you CAN make a difference in our community. Free of charge to participate, reservations are required, and donations are appreciated. Sponsorships are also available.

Please visit www.hmcec.org for more information.

"Poor Kids" - Wednesday, October 18 ZOOM Discussion at 4:00pm EST (U.S. and Canada) on Zoom. Documentary exploring what poverty means to children in America, through the stories of three families.

"Repairing the World" - Wednesday, October 25 ZOOM Discussion at 4:00pm EST (U.S. and Canada) on Zoom. Documentary on the Pittsburgh community's response to hate and antisemitism following the 2018 Tree of Life Synagogue attack.

"The Invisible Class" - Wednesday, November 1 Zoom Discussion at 4:00pm EST (U.S. and Canada) on Zoom. This documentary examines homelessness in America, and the stereotypes and systemic causes of this issue.

Note: Film Viewing links will be provided prior to the ZOOM Expert Panel/Q&A discussion.

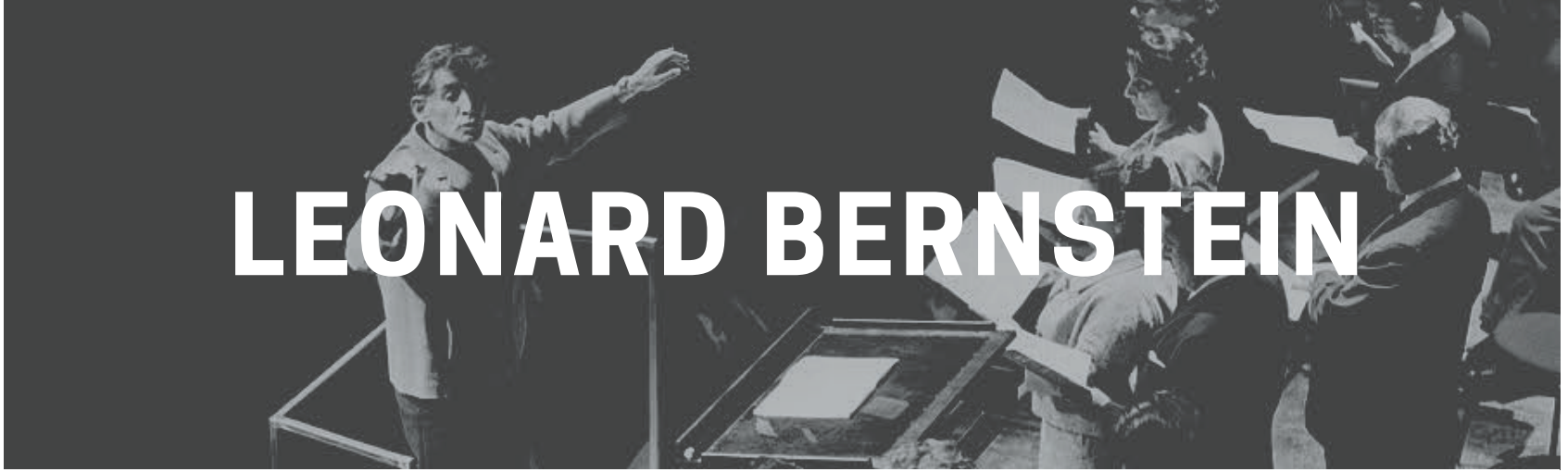
2023 "Movies That Matter" Series Partners: Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center, GenShoah SWFL, Interfaith Alliance, Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of Greater Naples, Naples United Church of Christ, Temple Shalom

Cynthia and her team were helpful, professional and caring. She was a great resource for learning about different options, levels of care, and communities. Now that my mother has moved, she has remained high touch and showed concern about how my family settles into its new situation. I highly recommend Senior Care Authority.

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Jamie's presentation will divide Leonard Bernstein's life into four categories: conductor, composer, educator and activist-humanitarian. There will be accompanying audio and video clips, as well as images of items culled from his vast archive at The Library of Congress.

The presentation begins and ends with several Bernstein hits performed by a local singer and pianist. The evening concludes with a Q&A with Jamie.

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2023-2024 GenShoah SWFL programs

Please join us for the following programs this season:

Movies that Matter

- Oct. 18 – “Poor Kids” Zoom discussion/Q&A, 4-5 p.m.
 - Oct. 25 – “Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life” Zoom discussion/Q&A, 4-5 p.m.
 - Nov. 1 – “The Invisible Class” Zoom discussion/Q&A, 4-5 p.m.
- RSVP required to attend: hmcec.org

Book discussion

“The Postcard” by Anne Berest – Nov. 13, 2 p.m. RSVP required to attend: hmcec.org. For more information, contact Estelle Kafer at ekafer520@gmail.com. Additional book discussions, locations, dates and times TBD based on interest. Contact Estelle Kafer at ekafer520@gmail.com.

Zoog Mir in Yiddish

November 2023 through April 2024, the third Sunday of the month, 3:30-5 p.m. at

the Holocaust Museum. Limit of 20 people. RSVP required to attend: hmcec.org

Kristallnacht

Nov. 5, 2:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Naples

Annual GenShoah potluck gathering

Dec. 10, 5 p.m., location TBD. Limited attendance. RSVP required to attend: Shirley Besikof at shirleybesikof@gmail.com.

Open House/New Member Reception

Jan. 26, 2024, 10 a.m. at the Holocaust Museum. For all GenShoah members. RSVP required to attend: hmcec.org.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Jan. 26, 2024 – Complimentary admission to the Holocaust Museum, 1-3 p.m.; special program at 2 p.m. RSVP required for both: hmcec.org.

“Our Stories” GenShoah member get-together

Feb. 4, 2024 at 1 p.m.; location TBD. Limited attendance. RSVP required to attend: Rene Geist rene@geistgroup.com.

Genealogy workshops

- Feb. 25, 2024, 1 p.m., location TBD
 - April 7, 2024, 1 p.m., location TBD
- Limited attendance. RSVP required to attend: Shelley Lieb at liebro@gmail.com.

“They Were Children: Rescue as Resistance” exhibit

March 3, 2024, 10 a.m. at FGCU Archives. RSVP required to attend: Shelley Lieb at liebro@gmail.com.

Growing up Sephardic in an Ashkenazi world by Sam Varsano

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 2 p.m. at the Holocaust Museum. RSVP required to attend: hmcec.org.

Yom HaShoah

• May 5, 2024, 4 p.m. at the Nina Iser Jewish Cultural Center. RSVP requested: jfgn.com.

• Pre-event reception for GenShoah SWFL and survivors, 3 p.m. at the Nina Iser Jewish Cultural Center.

Also of interest

How Yad Vashem maintains security for its archives: A close look at how the world’s premier Holocaust museum protects the past and prepares for the future:

<https://www.thejc.com/news/israel/how-yad-vashem-protects-the-worlds-holocaust-memories-1B7DWZYkv9heNx77QM8B1o>

The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust is sponsoring a “March of the Living” delegation designed for 2G families in Poland May 2-9, 2024. To sign up for an informational session or for more details, contact Michael Morgenstern at 323-456-5083 or michael@hmla.org.

continued on page 13

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For more information contact: Danielleb@Jfedlcc.org


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Recovery” by Rabbi Kerry Olitzky and Stuart Copans, M.D., second edition.


We meet every Saturday at 11 a.m. on Zoom. All who might benefit from this group are welcome. Zoom details are available by contacting the Temple Beth El office at 239-433-0018. 

2023-2024 GenShoah...continued from page 12

Responding to the needs of current refugees: a 2G/3G activist panel Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. (BST;1:30 p.m. EDT). Second- and third-generation representatives from Refugees at Home, Rene Cassin & Exiled Writers Ink will discuss their roles in refugee response actions. By Second Generation Network. <https://refugee-response-panel.eventbrite.co.uk>

Stories Survive: “Yesterday Never Sleeps” – In a discussion based on her new book “Yesterday Never Sleeps,” Jacqueline Heller, M.S., M.D., draws upon decades of clinical experience to weave together a powerful narrative that contains neuroscience, memoir of her life as a child of Holocaust survivors, and patient histories involving a range of psychological ills and

trauma. Dr. Heller is joined in this conversation by Professor Judy Tydor Baumel-Schwartz, scholar at Bar-Ilan University. <https://youtube.com/watch?v=L1piDs7u6IA>

Yiddish Alive is for people who are familiar with Yiddish. Attendees range from those who have some understanding of Yiddish to those who speak it fluently. We try to speak as much Yiddish as possible but do translate a lot for those less familiar. Zooms on alternate Mondays. Contact Michael Mills at millsms1@gmail.com, 513-673-9001 or <https://fjmc.org/yiddish-alive-affinity-group>. 

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

The World of Judaic folk art

By Arlene Stolnitz

I was a newly married bride in the '50s when my mother-in-law presented my husband and me with what I thought was a poorly framed paper cut. I was unimpressed with its appearance, and it was not until many years later that I understood and appreciated what it represented. It was my fascination with this paper cut that led me to discover the world of Judaic Folk Art.

Contrary to conventional Judaic belief, the visual arts have always been an important and beautiful way to express our religious devotion. Jewish art dates back to biblical times and, until modernity, depictions of the human form were forbidden. We still refer to the second commandment, "You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image or any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above or in the earth below." (Exodus 20:4) This has been interpreted throughout the generations to mean no artwork of any kind is acceptable in Judaism.

But this is farther from the truth than we can imagine! We need only to look at the first artist, Bezalel, the Jewish artisan appointed by G-d to build the Tabernacle. The Bible details the beautiful work of Bezalel and his partner, Oholiab, in the building



■ Arlene Stolnitz

of the Ark of the Covenant. It is described as overlaid with gold and decorated with cherubim (I Kings 6). Bezalel and Oholiab were given the task of working in gold, silver and bronze, cutting stones for settings and in carving wood.

Through the centuries, Jews have excelled in various art forms, which we will explore in this column on an irregular basis throughout the year. There is much for us to discover.

So, you may ask, "exactly what is Judaic Folk Art?"

Jewish folk art has been a huge part of Jewish homes and synagogues for centuries. Jewish folk art includes items like the mizrach, an emblem placed on the eastern wall of the home to remind family members which direction to direct their prayers; the shiviti, a meditative representation of a verse from Psalms; Kiddush cups; challah covers; mezuzot; candlesticks; and more. Once an expression of piety, these objects were created by Eastern European Jews who had little or no artistic training. Today, Jewish folk art has become more sophisticated and continues as trained artists focus their skills on these traditional crafts.

Of particular interest to me is the art of paper cutting, which was prevalent



in Poland in the 1800s. It was an art form in Eastern Europe that is now gone but has had a revival in modernity. Those who have studied the old tradition have gained a deep appreciation of the many ways Jews have contributed to Judaic culture.

The subject of Judaic folk art has had limited exposure in the past. This is the reason for writing these articles,

as a way of introducing a little-known subject to a wider audience.

I would enjoy hearing any comments and suggestions you may have.

Arlene Stolnitz, the "Jewish Music" contributor to Federation papers the past eight years, is starting a new series focusing on Judaic folk art. A native of Rochester, NY, Stolnitz is a retired educator and lives in Venice, Florida.

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Four very different new movies, Wallace interviews

By Nate Bloom, Stars of David Contributing Columnist

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

“Flora and Son”

This musical comedy-drama began streaming on Apple+ on Sept. 29. It got very good reviews at the Sundance Film Festival last January and, soon after, Apple paid \$20M for the rights to show it.

Basic plot: Flora, a single mother in Ireland, has trouble with her teenage son, Max. He’s a rebellious petty thief. The police tell Max to find a hobby. Fiona digs out an old guitar. Then, with the help of a Los Angeles online guitar teacher (**Joseph Gordon-Levitt**, 42) Max finds his “calling.” (Gordon-Levitt is really an accomplished “amateur” guitarist.)

“Who’s Talking to Chris Wallace?”

The new season of “Who’s Talking to Chris Wallace?” began streaming Sept. 29 on HBO/Max. **Wallace**, 75, quit Fox News in 2021 after 28 years. He was one of the few “traditional” news anchors still working for Fox. He was reportedly very upset with the Fox “opinion anchors” (that’s what Fox calls them) — who were pushing the election fraud stories — stories that have already cost Fox \$780M in the settlement of a defamation suit.

In April 2022, Wallace joined a new streaming service called CNN+. But few subscribed, and it was scrapped a week after launching! Wallace had a big money contract with CNN, so they shuttled him off to HBO/Max, which is owned by the same company as CNN.

Last August, Wallace was given a second show: a CNN morning show

called “The Chris Wallace Show.” Wallace is a respected journalist who treats his interviewees respectfully, so he attracts guests from across the “respectful” political spectrum.

Most know that Chris Wallace is the son of the late **Mike Wallace**, a long-time top (Jewish) CBS journalist. My guess is that most Jews think with the first name “Chris,” his mother wasn’t Jewish. Not so. His mother was Jewish, as was his stepfather (who helped raise Chris). Chris was raised secular.



Films opening in October

“Freelance” and “Cat Person” are films that open in theaters on Oct. 6. “Freelance” is a comedic action film. Here’s the basic plot: Former Special Forces operator Mason Pettit (**John Cena**) takes a job providing security for journalist Claire Wellington (**Alison Brie**, 40) as she interviews the president of (the fictional) Paldonia. When a military coup breaks out, the three are forced to escape into the jungle together.

Brie’s credits include starring roles in the TV series “Community” and “GLOW.” Brie’s father is not Jewish. Her mother is Jewish. She’s been married to actor **Dave Franco** since 2017. Franco, 38, has the exact same background as Brie.

“Cat Person” is based on a 2017 *New Yorker* short story that got a huge response. Basic plot: Margot (Emilia Jones), a college sophomore, works at a movie snacks counter. Robert (Nicholas Braun), an older regular moviegoer, asks for her number. She likes the witty and funny texts that Robert sends her, and he frequently mentions his cats. Finally, they go out on a “real date” and — well, I won’t “really spoil” things, like telling you how their date goes. One hint: this is a drama, not a romantic comedy.

Fred Melamed, 67, has a supporting role as a psychiatrist. The film was directed by **Susanne Fogel**, 41. She directed “A Small Light,” a 2023 Disney series about **Anne Frank**, her family and those who helped the **Frank** family. Fogel got an Emmy nomination (2021) for writing an episode of “The Flight Attendant” (HBO), and she wrote the hit movie “Booksmart” (2021).

“Caine”

In 1952, **Herman Wouk** (1919-2019) won the Pulitzer Prize for his novel “The Caine Mutiny.” A major character

was **Barney Greenwald**, a Jewish Navy fighter pilot who was a hotshot civilian lawyer. He was assigned as the Navy lawyer for the mutiny members.

In 1954, a very gripping “Caine Mutiny” film was made. But there was no mention that Greenwald was Jewish or a fighter pilot. On Oct. 8, a new film remake of “Caine” will premiere on Showtime. This remake will be the second time a non-Jewish actor will play Greenwald. No word whether they will mention he’s a former fighter pilot or a Jew.

The director was **William Friedkin**, who died in August, age 87. He had two big hits in the early ‘70s: “The French Connection” and “The Exorcist.” After that — all flops. Why? Bad scripts and a reputation that he was very nasty. He was also profoundly ignorant. Not long ago, I saw a video of a talk he gave. He defended a 1915 film that showed the Klan in a good light. He actually repeated the racist myth that the Klan’s mission was to protect women from recently freed black slaves. 🤔


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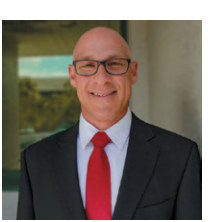
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Memories of childhood Sukkot

By Chef Dalia

As I try to regain some composure after the loss of my parents, I also enter the joyous holiday season of Sukkot. Among all 'festivals of joy,' Sukkot is specifically designated as the "time of our joy," and its celebration is greater than that of other holidays. Song and dance permeate each day of this holiday, growing in intensity with each passing day.

After experiencing such a sad Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur this year, the first holiday without my mom and dad, I never thought I'd also be celebrating Sukkot all alone without my parents at my side to enjoy the festive meals. Losing a parent is never easy but the first Rosh Hashanah after the death of both of them is a special kind of difficult.

Sukkot has always been one of my favorite holidays. I love purchasing the four spices and decorating my sukkah with chains and decorations made by my boys. Normally, I invite lots of friends and family to enjoy the myriad

dishes and treats I prepare every year to celebrate.

I have special foods and serving dishes I use only on Sukkot. When I started thinking about how sad it was that I wouldn't be able to prepare all of these dishes this year, I suddenly realized there was no reason I couldn't prepare all my parents favorite dishes to create a new tradition in their honor.

So, I started getting organized and prepared my beloved holiday's challah ahead of time, so I could send it, together with other treats, to all of my friends and relatives in time for the holiday. I decorated my sukkah just as I would any other year in an effort to forcefully create some happiness and joy.

You may be asking if I was successful in my try. For me, other than being together with loved ones, what makes each holiday special are the traditional foods we eat each year in the sukkah. And that's what I did – I made everything I would have prepared in a

normal year. This is my way of getting through such a difficult period.

There aren't too many dishes specifically identified as foods traditionally eaten on Sukkot. Sukkot dishes usually include vegetables, and it is also common to prepare hot dishes that can be served outside that won't get cold too quickly, such as stuffed vegetables. Of course, the stuffed cabbage is always on my table in the sukkah. I never skip it.

In my memories of childhood Sukkot, we always had a sukkah. It was exciting for lots of reasons, but stuffed cabbage was a given. My mother was the one responsible for the recipe at Sukkot meals, serving it alongside other recipes. I remember her making the stuffed cabbage when she would visit me. It was a food she cooked with love and to show my family that she cared for them.

The recipe below is for my mother's stuffed cabbage dish, perfect for serving in the sukkah and one of my all-time favorite dishes. This recipe for Moroccan stuffed cabbage rolls is such



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

a delicious alternative to traditional cabbage rolls. A little Moroccan spice is added to the ground beef mixture and deliciously spiced Moroccan tomato sauce is used as the sauce topping. 🍷



Moroccan Stuffed Cabbage Rolls

Ingredients

- 1 large head savoy cabbage
- 1 cup water
- 1 Tbsp. oil
- ½ cup rice
- 2 lbs. ground beef
- 3 cloves garlic, finely minced or grated
- 1 medium onion, finely minced or grated
- 1 egg
- ½ cup raisins
- ¼ bunch parsley
- ¼ bunch cilantro, chopped

Tomato Sauce

- Oil
- 1 onion, minced
- 8 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp. harissa paste (optional)
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. cumin
- ½ tsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. salt
- 28 oz. can crushed tomatoes

Spice Mix

- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp. allspice
- 1 tsp. sweet paprika
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. ground cumin

Directions

Note: Freeze the cabbage for 24 hours. Then defrost in the refrigerator for another 24 hours. This will wilt the leaves and make them easier to roll once stuffed.

- 1) Bring a large pot of water to boil.
- 2) Cut the thick core out of the center of the cabbage and very carefully peel the leaves of the whole head – the amount will differ depending on size.

- 3) Blanch leaves for about 30 seconds to 1 minute each and place on paper towels once finished to absorb the water. Set aside.

- 4) Make the rice: In a small saucepan, add 1 cup of water and 1 Tbsp. oil. Bring to the boil, add ½ cup rice and cook for approx. 15 minutes. Drain, rinse with cold water and set aside.

- 5) Make the tomato sauce: Heat oil in a tall pot on medium heat. Sauté onion, garlic, harissa paste (optional), cinnamon, cumin, black pepper and salt for 10 minutes.

- 6) Add the tomatoes, Turn the heat to low and allow sauce to simmer for 15 minutes while you make your filling.

- 7) Make the filling: In a medium to large mixing bowl, add 2 lbs. ground beef (raw); spice mix of cinnamon, allspice, paprika, salt, black paper and cumin; garlic; onion; ras el hanout; egg; raisins; parsley; cilantro; and cooked rice. Mix together to make your filling.

- 8) Starting with your largest cabbage leaf, place a generous spoonful of filling at the base of the leaf, fold in the sides and roll up the leaf, sealing it well. The amount of filling will vary based on the size of each cabbage leaf, but make sure it is fully sealed inside.

- 9) Gently place the rolled cabbage leaves in the sauce, seam side down. Repeat with the remaining filling, nestling the rolls tightly along the base of the pot to secure them, and then layering on top.

- 10) Once all leaves are in the pot, press down to make sure they are covered with sauce. Then cover the pot and simmer on low for 2 hours or until the cabbage leaves are easily pierced with a knife.
- 11) Serve warm.



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Join a Wine Club?

By Jerry Greenfield, the Wine Whisperer

A few times a month, postcards show up in my mailbox inviting me to join some kind of “wine of the month” club. Question is, are they worth it? Are the wines any good? And, do you want a whole case of something showing up at your front door once a month?

Noted wine journalist Eric Asimov dealt with this issue in a recent *New York Times* article, and I have to agree with a lot of the points he made.

First, many of the clubs don't have a lot to do with wine. They are usually owned by some kind of media company, like the *Wall Street Journal* or NPR. And many of them offer wines that are unknown brands.

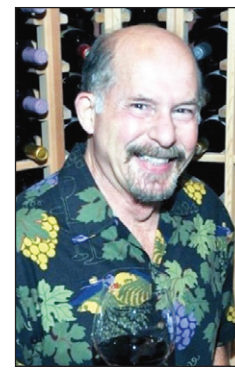
Here's an example: For about three years, I was wine director of a monthly club similar to those Asimov describes. Our wines were brought into the country in bulk, then bottled and labeled in California with our own brands. No recognizable wineries anywhere.

These clubs are usually suited to people who don't know much about wine and don't mind having someone make selections for them. The clubs offer a monthly assortment of varietals from all over the world. They sometimes mix wines from several different countries or regions or specialize in certain varietals. There's always a theme.

So, if you're interested in receiving a selection of wines every month or quarter, what do you do? First, select a few producers you like, and get yourself on their allocation lists. For example, Sea Smoke winery in Lompoc, California sends us emails a few times a year offering a selection of their incredible pinot noirs and chardonnays. Many wineries offer limited production wines available only to club members.

You can also become a member at a wine retailer. Serious wine shops are a bit harder to find these days, but they do exist and they're worth discovering because they host tastings and other events that will help you discover new and interesting wines. Once you're on their list, you'll receive special members-only offers, pricing, and even rewards points. So, if you know about a local shop or have heard of one, it pays to contact them.

But let's get back to those postcards that offer me special incentives for



■ Jerry Greenfield

joining, like an initial shipment of 12 wines for \$80 and even a few bonus bottles. So, what's the downside? As I mentioned, the brands are generally private, so you won't be able to look them up or find any reviews, ratings or tasting notes. The bottles you receive are, as I mentioned, proprietary labels: privately labeled bulk wines. That doesn't necessarily mean

they're bad – just “untraceable.”

On a positive note, many clubs will send you a questionnaire to determine your preferences and try to personalize your shipment.

Personally, I'd rather make my own selections. But, if you're not a wine journalist or collector, the best alternative is to find a local retail wine store staffed by people who know their wines and ask for suggestions and recommendations. That gives you, as Asimov notes, “freedom and control.”

And when you shop, consider these suggestions.

Bootleg Prequel Red Blend Sonoma 2020 (\$36) – An intriguing combination of syrah, petit sirah, grenache, and a few others, with rich flavors of dark chocolate, blackberry and vanilla. This one will turn your teeth purple. WW 91

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Ask the Wine Whisperer

Q: How many grapes does it take to produce a bottle of wine? – Sharon F., Atlanta

A: In general, a ton of grapes can produce 720 bottles of wine. Of course, grapes grow in different sizes. Pinot noir grapes are smaller than cabernet grapes, so it takes more of them to make a bottle of wine.

Jerry Greenfield is the Wine Whisperer, a wine author, educator and consultant. University. His books, “Ask the Wine Whisperer” and “Secrets of the Wine Whisperer,” are available on his website. Read his blog at www.winewhisperer.com.



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Old dogs and new tricks

Aging Jewishly – What our traditions teach us about growing old

By Rabbi Barbara Aiello

Bill shook his head as he crumpled the flyer and tossed it on the floor. The Jewish new year was a pleasant memory and now all the local synagogues were gearing up for what appeared to be extensive adult education programs. This year, however, Bill was having none of it. The discarded flyer that landed at his feet said it all.

“What’s this?” Diane asked as she retrieved the flyer and began to smooth it out on the kitchen table. That’s when she noticed that Bill had thrown away all the information on the class offerings. Diane was puzzled. “Surely, there’s at least one course that appeals to you. Why the temper tantrum?”

Bill looked like he was about to cry. He sputtered, “There are dozens



■ Rabbi Barbara Aiello

philosopher Mortimer Adler put it best when he said, “The purpose of learning ... is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as we continue to live.”

The concept of life-long learning originated as a Jewish concept that in recent years now embraces all ethnic and religious groups. It was popularized by Peter Drucker, (z”l), an

ethnic Jew who was raised in a secular Christian household. Drucker took a deep dive into Talmudic teaching which led to his pronouncement that “We now accept the fact that learning is a lifelong process of keeping abreast of change.”

Ancient Jewish sages would agree. In fact, it was Rabbi Joseph Karo,

author of the “Shulchan Aruch,” a 1500’s literary blockbuster that is a staple of Jewish thought, who wrote, “A parent and child must both study Torah. When possibilities exist for only one, the adult’s personal needs take precedence to the child’s.” In other words, adult education is an age-old Jewish priority.

“Not for nothing are we called the People of the Book,” was Diane’s response to her husband as she

encouraged him to select a course and continue on his own path of lifelong learning. And Bill can take heart from another Jewish sage, comedian George

“The purpose of learning ... is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as we continue to live.”
~ philosopher Mortimer Adler

Burns, (z”l), who, at 100 years of age, said, “You can’t help getting older, but you don’t have to get old.”

For 10 years, Rabbi Barbara Aiello served the Aviva Campus for Senior Life as resident rabbi. Her most popular columns are now published in her new book, “Aging Jewishly,” available on Amazon books. Rabbi Barbara now lives and works in Italy, where she is rabbi of Italy’s first Reconstructionist synagogue. Contact her at rabbibarbara.com.



of courses I’d like to take but this past year has been hard. I’m feeling my age and you know what they say... ‘You can’t teach an old dog new tricks!’”

In a recent article published by Barclay Friends, “Seniors Are Alive and Well: Laying the Ageist Myths to Rest,” gerontology professionals report that “Even as people are living significantly longer than ever before, many of the age-old and ageist stereotypes about senior citizens are still alive and kicking,” among them the Number One Ageist Myth that men and women of advanced age are incapable of learning new skills.

The Barclay Report emphasizes that, “While it may take a little longer for seniors to learn a new skill than their younger counterparts, most age-associated cognitive changes are mild and do not affect daily functioning or the ability to acquire new skills.”

In addition, studies indicate that many seniors score higher on intelligence tests than their much younger counterparts, while one study found that “Learning new skills in an encouraging environment expands cognitive ability for seniors just as it does for children.”

Support for adults to learn new skills comes from various sources and Jewish tradition leads the way. In fact,

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The Revolt at Sobibór

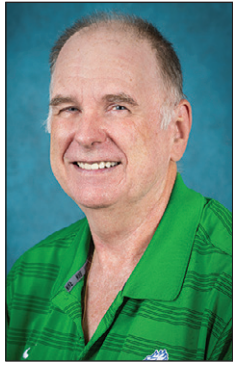
By Paul R. Bartrop, Professor Emeritus of History, Florida Gulf Coast University

Eighty years ago this month, a prisoner revolt – entirely undertaken by Jews – erupted at Sobibór, one of six dedicated death camps operated by the Germans in occupied Poland. Deservedly, much discussion of resistance focuses on the ghettos and the forests, but this prisoner uprising, together with others in Treblinka (August 2, 1943) and Auschwitz (October 7, 1944), also deserves to be remembered with respect and reverence.

Sobibór was established as part of *Aktion Reinhard*, the Nazi plan to murder all Polish Jews in the General Government (*Generalgouvernement*) of occupied Poland. It was operational from April 1942 until November 1943.

The killing center was established near the village of Sobibór, situated some three miles west of the Bug (Buh) River, in what is eastern Poland today, about 50 miles east of Lublin and 24 miles north of the town of Chełm.

Like all the death camps, Sobibór was positioned in a sparsely populated, remote area. At its largest extent, the camp covered an area 1,969 feet long and 1,312 feet wide. Surrounded by a high wire fence, the camp was concealed by a dense forest of pine and birch trees planted along its perimeter to shield the site from view. Beyond the fence and trees, a



■ Paul R. Bartrop

50-foot-wide minefield surrounded the camp to thwart escape attempts.

The camp was built along the Lublin-Chełm-Włodawa train line, just west of the train station. A nearby spur connected the railway to the camp and was used to expedite the delivery of prisoners.

Sobibór was administered by around 50 Austrian and German personnel, of whom some 20 to 30 were SS and security officials. The German staff were derived almost exclusively from personnel originating from the T-4 or “euthanasia” program. The guard force numbered 90 to 120 men, some of whom were Polish or Ukrainian civilians and Soviet prisoners of war.

The camp’s first commandant, former Austrian policeman Franz Stangl, initially served as deputy administrative director of the Hartheim killing center. He was charged with security and similar tasks at Bernburg before his transfer to the Lublin District. Stangl ran the facility between April and August 1942 until replaced by SS Captain Franz Reichleitner, who commanded Sobibór until it was decommissioned in November 1943.

Sobibór was divided into three sections consisting of an administration area, a reception area and a killing area. Camp I, the administration area,

comprised the site’s entrance gate, railway ramp and living quarters for the SS men and the guards. It also housed a very small number of Jewish prisoners who labored in workshops there. Camp II, the reception area, was where prisoners entered after disembarking transports. It housed the undressing barracks and the storehouses for the clothes and belongings of those sent to the gas chambers. Camp III consisted of gas chambers and burial pits.

Most of the Jews sent to Sobibór were from eastern and northern parts of the *Generalgouvernement’s* Lublin District, including the Chełm ghetto, although Jews were also transported there from Austria, Germany, Bohemia and Moravia, Slovakia, France and the Netherlands. In early May 1942, Sobibór officials began systematically sending arriving Jews to the gas chambers. As trainloads pulled into the reception area, they were driven onto platforms and met by *Sonderkommandos*, prisoners forced to work in the camps.

New arrivals had their valuables appropriated and were forced to undress. They were then steered by the *Sonderkommandos* into the “tube,” a leafy and wooded tunnel that the Germans told the prisoners would lead to the “showers.” Instead, it led them to the gas chambers.

The Sobibór killing system could “process” prisoners from as many as 20 freight cars at a time. Once the victims were inside the gas chambers, the doors were sealed and they were killed with carbon monoxide. *Sonderkommandos* then emptied the bodies from the gas chambers and extracted any jewelry or gold fillings from the corpses before they were buried in mass graves. It has

been calculated that the Germans and their auxiliaries killed up to 250,000 Jews at Sobibór.

In 1943, the *Sonderkommandos* and prisoners in the labor force at Sobibór saw that killing operations in the facility were winding down and learned there were no surviving prisoners at another death camp, Bełżec.

When the approximately 600 prisoners remaining at Sobibór learned they would likely be deported to other camps and almost certain death, an uprising took place. On Oct. 14, 1943, the uprising was led by Leon Feldhendler, the son of a rabbi, and was augmented in both numbers and military skill by the arrival of some Jewish Red Army prisoners commanded by Alexander Pechersky. Eleven German personnel were killed, including camp deputy commandant, Johann Niemann, and a few guards. At least 300 prisoners broke out of the camp that day. Around 100 were caught but nearly 60 escaped Sobibór and survived the war.

The prisoner revolt at Sobibór was a shock to the Germans. In November 1943, SS officials resolved to close the camp. The remaining prison guards shot any surviving prisoners, dismantled the gas chambers, and bulldozed what remained of the camp buildings.

By March 1944, when the last of the guards left the area, trees were planted over the site to mask its existence as though it had never existed. But we remember.

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

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



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Getting those silly phrases right

I could care less (or is it "I couldn't care less?") about silly little sayings, but here I go again.

This idea about silly phrases came up for me when UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak attempted to show his support for England's women's World Cup team after they lost to Spain. Sunak tweeted, "You left absolutely nothing out there." Critics were quick to point out he should have written, "You left absolutely *everything* out there."

Is it so horrible to leave nothing on the field? Can't you give your all ... and then take it back? I mean, the game is over after all. Shouldn't you leave with something? It doesn't have to be everything, but does it have to be nothing?

Sunak isn't the only one to make such a blunder. Basketball player Karl Malone once said, "I ain't gonna be no escape-goat." When Mike Tyson lost to Lennox Lewis, Tyson said, "I guess I'm gonna fade into Bolivian." I'm not going to be the one to tell them, though. And let's face it; everyone gets "wrapped up like a deuce" wrong in the song, "Blinded By The Light."

I'm embarrassed to say, I used "for all intensive purposes" (instead of "for all intents and purposes") into adulthood. I added the explanation in parentheses for those of you who still say it wrong. I eventually had to bite the bullet and admit my mistake. Apparently, we're not alone, though. It's No. 8 on a BuzzFeed list. I'm not sure what that really means, but it seems like that is a lot of people saying it wrong. It's in the Top 10, after all!

No. 1 on the BuzzFeed list is "gun-ho" instead of "gung-ho." I'm not sure I've actually heard anyone get that wrong, but I guess it's close enough to be easily concealed. No. 2



■ Keith Grossman

is "play it by year" instead of "play it by ear." Apparently, the argument is that a year is an actual measurement of time. I'm not sure that I follow that argument, but it sounds scholarly. Maybe I can be convinced. No. 7 is "old wise tale" instead of "old wives' tale." That one actually makes sense to me.

Doing research for this column, I discovered that Darth Vader never said, "Luke, I am your father." What?! How could I be wrong?! We've all seen the movie "The Empire Strikes Back" ... I mean ... like a million times. Of course, that's what he says. Apparently not. The correct line is "No, I am your father."

That's really splitting hairs, and it rubs me the wrong way. By the way, "rub the wrong way" seems to refer to

cats rubbing their fur in the wrong direction. At least that is how it was written in Mary Hughes' "Aunt Mary's Tales" in 1819. Who knew? I can see "the cat's got your tongue."

I also discovered that Obi-Wan Kenobi never said "May the

force be with you" in the original Star Wars films. My mind is blown! Instead, he said, "Remember, the Force will be with you ... always." My whole childhood was a lie.

I started this column with the phrase "could care less." It also seems there's a debate about whether that is ridiculous to say. If you could care less, then you still care ... correct? At least, that's what the British argue. Apparently, Americans use the phrase "could care less" much more frequently than our linguistic foes across the pond. In fact, the Oxford English Dictionary calls "could care less" a "U.S. colloquial phrase." Well, how about that? Stick a feather in my cap and call it macaroni. And what does that even mean? 🤔

I'm embarrassed to say, I used "for all intensive purposes" ... into adulthood.

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Dollars to donuts, we may be paying too much

This summer, my son had this cool idea to run to a donut shop. I mean literally run. Earn the calories. So, he and I ran to this donut shop, having burned approximately the same amount of calories en route as we were about to enjoy. He got a cream-filled donut with maple icing. I got a twist. The lady behind the counter said, "That will be \$6.59."

We stepped outside and Sander said, "Dad, I think they overcharged us." I hadn't thought too much about it when I paid but now I couldn't get my head around that price – \$6.59. For two donuts? Was that right? We did not go back in the donut shop to ask. I've been assured by others that the price we paid was probably correct.

I mean, these were Fluffy Fresh Donuts, voted "The Best in Kansas



■ Brian Simon

City 2018," so I guess you could call them "premium."

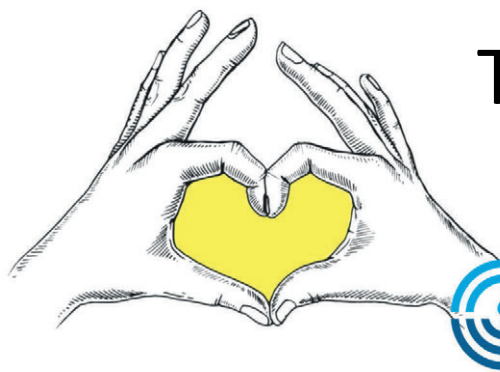
Look, this is not a rant about inflation. We're all dealing with it. I bought a car this year. I go grocery shopping. I know stuff costs more. It's just that some prices have changed *so* much that I don't have any sense of what those things *should* cost. If I went on "The Price Is Right" (RIP Bob Barker), I'd be the guy bidding

\$1 every time. I just have no idea.

The other thing I've noticed is how everything involves a tip now. What are the rules on that? I tip at restaurants. I would tip at the hair salon if I still had hair to get cut.

But how much are we supposed to tip at a coffee shop? How much if we order takeout?

What I love about tipping is, it's as if the company is asking you, "Hey, you



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just paid \$4.25 for a latte. Don't you think it should have been a little more? Here's your chance to add a few more dollars to your bill!"

Every summer during college, I worked as a waiter at the Olive Garden on Bannister Road in Kansas City. One of our managers, Bob, told us about a restaurant he used to run in Denver. They tried a thing where they didn't have prices. Their servers were trained to go to the table and literally ask the patrons to pay whatever they thought the meal was worth. Bob said, in most instances, people actually paid more than what the price on the menu would have been. The strategy got some publicity but ultimately fizzled out. I think it would be tough as a customer to have to determine a value. Just tell me what I owe, you know?

Apparently, in the service economy, we all owe a little something extra for the effort.

Not that long ago, there was a movement in the hospitality industry to ban gratuities. The thinking was that tipping created huge disparities between what

servers earned compared to the kitchen staff, who worked just as hard and was just as integral to the customer experience. Tipping, it was argued, also facilitated racism, sexism and wage-theft.

The plan to ban tipping quickly fizzled out, as both customers *and* employees pushed back. The upshot is, we'd rather see a lower price on the menu and add the tip than see the higher price required to provide an "equitable" pay scale.

So, maybe I can feel better about paying \$6 for donuts knowing that the shop is paying a fair wage to its employees. Or maybe people just aren't buying as many donuts and they need

to make up in margin what they used to make in volume. Or maybe the "Time to Make the Donuts" guy needs more motivation to get out of bed.

One more anecdote. I went into a discount clothing store. You know, the kind where the price tag gives you their price and tells you what to compare it to? I used to be able to tell if they were bluffing or not. Now, I just take their word for it. Except for this one. I mean, \$2,400 for a rain jacket on sale for \$400! C'mon! I'm not that out of touch, am I? 🤔

If I went on "The Price Is Right" ..., I'd be the guy bidding \$1 every time. I just have no idea.

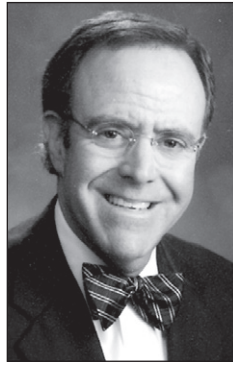
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Civility and community

By Rabbi Marc Sack

A writer tells the story of her sister who worked at a Brooklyn café, a place with its share of regular customers. On a slow day, the barista went over to the table of one of those regulars to chat when her cellphone rang. It was the owner of the café. He had installed cameras in the restaurant, not for the sake of security but to keep track of the workers. He told the barista that she should not spend time talking to customers.

There is an epidemic of loneliness in the United States. A 2018 health care study reported that 54% of people feel that no one knows them well. Forty-three percent said that their relationships were not meaningful. The group most distressed by loneliness were people between 18 and 22 years of age. The problem is not unique to the United States. England now has a Minister for Loneliness.



■ Rabbi Marc Sack

What is surprising is that this loneliness comes when so many of us subscribe to social media. Hype aside, our “friends” on Facebook are no substitute for direct face-to-face relationships.

Volumes have been written on why people are so lonely. Among the answers are that: we have stopped joining social groups, (we are ‘bowling alone’), we have stopped volunteering, we believe we have to take care of ourselves because no one else will, we spend too much time looking at our phones, we have stopped showing up. All of these have some truth, and the pandemic only aggravated the problem.

Along the way, we have also gotten ruder. A woman barked at me when I, sitting in a window seat, asked if I could step into the aisle so I could make my way to a tight connecting flight. I think the issues of loneliness and rudeness are connected. The more

we believe our only responsibility is to ourselves, the lonelier we’ll be, and the less inclined we’ll be to do for others.

Stephen Carter, the Yale Law professor, defined civility as “the sum of the many sacrifices we are called to make for the sake of living together.” For the sake of living together, we must make sacrifices, go beyond ourselves, and reach out and do for others.

For the sake of living together, we must make sacrifices, go beyond ourselves, and reach out and do for others.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks wrote, “Civility is more than good manners. It is an affirmation that the problems of some are the problems of all, that a good society presupposes collective responsibility, that there is a moral dimension

to being part of this nation, this people, this place.” (“Morality,” page 220)

The Hebrew term for synagogue is not *beit t’fillah*, a house of prayer; it is *beit k’nesset*, a house of gathering. It is a place where we show up to be part of a community of concern. We look out for and take care of each other. We commit to being responsible for each other. It is the place we go to overcome our loneliness.

There is a practice in my neighborhood that I have not encountered in other places where I’ve lived. Everyone waves hello. People who do not know each other’s names wave hello. It’s considered rude not to do so. How this started, I don’t know. But it is a tiny sign of acknowledgement, a sign that we are part of the same community and it’s good to see you. Small acts of kindness — acknowledging the presence of the other — go a long way to making life better.

Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers. 🌐

“The season of our rejoicing”

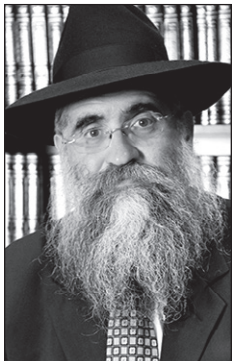
By Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz

The mitzva (commandment) of lulav and etrog requires us to take branches or fruit from four different species of trees (these two as well as the myrtle and the willow) and combine them in the performance of this mitzva. Our Sages explain that each of the species used for this mitzva refers to a different type of person, from the most spiritually developed to the least refined.

Therein is an obvious lesson. The mitzva cannot be fulfilled with only the etrog, the most elevated of the species. The willow, which in the analogy to people refers to those on the lowest levels, is also necessary. So, too, no person can attain fulfillment by remaining isolated, out of touch with others. Even the realization of his individual potential cannot be complete without him reaching out to others and joining together with them.

Our Sages explain that the lulav and the etrog are a victory symbol, indicating our vindication in the judgment of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. When we stand bound together in unity, as the lulav and etrog teach, we can be assured of positive blessings in the year to come.

In our prayers, we describe Sukkot as “The Season of Our Rejoicing.” This theme will reach its ultimate fulfillment in the era of Moshiach, when,



■ Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz

as the Prophet relates, our people will return to the Land of Israel “crowned with eternal joy.” And as it says in Psalms: “Then (as opposed to now) our mouths will be filled with laughter.”

In previous generations, Jews did not need explanations as to why happiness was associated specifically with Moshiach’s time. It was quite obvious. By and large, they did not live in happy

times. But they knew that this sadness was not forever. At one point, the trials and tribulations of the exile would end and they would enjoy happiness and joy.

Today, however, when a person can enjoy all the comforts that a free and affluent society has to offer, we are able to ask: What is so special about the happiness that Moshiach will provide?

Although our Sages explain that we will have peace, prosperity and well-being in the era of the Redemption, these are not the essence of that time. They are merely the backdrop

and the setting that will allow the message of the Redemption to be communicated more effectively.

In the present age, we’re happy because things — good food, good people, good times — make us happy. In the era of Moshiach, we won’t need external factors to make us feel happy. We will feel happy because we’re alive, because we have a soul and

In the era of Mashiach, we won’t need external factors to make us feel happy.

because we’re living in G-d’s world. This awareness will be as real to us as material reality is today.

We have the potential to appreciate a foretaste of this happiness in the present era. It is true that, at present, our knowledge of spirituality is merely intellectual, and only in the future era will we have firsthand experience of the spiritual core in our own being and in the world at large. Nevertheless,

even today, knowing that this is the truth and focusing on it intensely can grant us a glimmer of this awareness and a sampling of the happiness that will result from it.

Tasting this happiness and sharing it with others will precipitate the time when this mindset will spread throughout all existence and “our mouths will be filled with laughter.” 🌐

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Do not destroy needlessly

By Rabbi Nicole Luna

As we approach Sukkot and imagine sitting outside in our sukkah, looking up at the stars, feeling the breeze and hoping it doesn't rain, we feel an intimacy with the environment unlike on any other Jewish holiday. We know our environment is fragile and vulnerable, just like the sukkah. Our Torah contains a central commandment about the environment — a commandment that should impact how we practice our Judaism on a daily basis. The commandment is called *bal taschit* — do not destroy needlessly — do not waste or dispose of potentially useful things.

Deuteronomy 20:19 reads, “When in your war against a city you have to besiege it a long time in order to capture it, you must not destroy its trees, wielding the ax against them. You may eat of them, but you must not cut them down. For are trees of the field human to withdraw before you into the besieged city?”



■ Rabbi Nicole Luna

The arc from this biblical prohibition about trees during wartime to the general principle of do not destroy is a great example of how Jewish practice develops from the Torah to today. Back in the Talmud, the commandment of *bal taschit* — do not destroy — was expanded to include wasting lamp oil, tearing clothing and the needless killing of animals. Later, the great sage Maimonides would expand it even further, writing, “Do not destroy fruit trees..., nor may anything else be wantonly destroyed.”

This commandment of *bal taschit* can be difficult for modern Jews today. We live in a time when so much is disposable. According to the EPA, each person generates about 5 pounds of waste a day and that latest statistic was from 2018. To-go containers, plastic packaging, old clothes — these all end up in the landfill. Yet, this waste is not only an environmental concern,

this is also a Jewish commandment, a core practice of our Jewish lives.

To live out the commandment of *bal taschit*, Temple Beth El has introduced a new environmental program, Bags to Bench. It's a recycle-reuse collection program for plastic packaging. If we collect 500 pounds within 6 months, the Temple will receive a bench made out of the recycled mate-

According to the EPA, each person generates about 5 pounds of waste a day and that latest statistic was from 2018.

rials and will have saved 500 pounds of waste from the landfill. When we started, I quickly started collecting plastics to bring in. I came back from Target and put aside the plastic bags. I got an Amazon delivery and put aside the bubble wrap. After a grocery shop, I put aside the produce bags. After

just a few days, I was astounded and embarrassed by the amount of plastic waste I brought into my home and previously just threw away.

Sitting in a sukkah, outside in nature, calls us to pay attention to the environment. We're more aware of darkening clouds, the time of sunset and outdoor temperature. We're also called to pay attention to how we're impacting the environment. We know that God's creation is calling out to us for help. The sweltering heat across the globe this summer and our own anxiety during hurricane season tells us that something must change.

As we prepare to celebrate our outdoor holiday of Sukkot, let us return to our Torah that teaches us the commandment to not destroy. Let us pay attention to the waste we throw out and commit to using less and recycling. Then may we enjoy sitting outdoors in the sukkah for generations to come. 🌍

<https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/national-overview-facts-and-figures-materials>

Maintaining the faith to rejoice

By Rabbi Lawrence Dermer

Throughout history, our people have experienced times of uncertainty and challenge. Even in the darkest of times, we continued to rejoice knowing with absolute faith we were always under the wings of G-d's Divine protection. As we celebrate Sukkot this year, we can look more closely at what exactly is a sukkah, what does it represent and how can this holiday improve our lives?

Our Torah says: “Live in sukkot for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in sukkot so that your

descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in sukkot when I brought them out of Egypt: I am the Lord your G-d.” (Lev. 23: 42-43)

The act of building a sukkah reminds us of miracles. Pesach is about the miracle of the exodus when HaShem was delivered from Egyptian bondage. Shavuot is the miracle of the revelation at Mount Sinai when G-d appeared to the entire



■ Rabbi Lawrence Dermer

nation of Israel and gifted us with our Sacred Torah.

Sukkot is about G-d's eternal protection for His people, lessening the hardships of the journey across the desert followed by almost 2,000 years spent in exile. For centuries, Jews lived in places that would prove to be temporary homes. From our expulsion in England in 1290, followed by the Spanish Expulsion in 1492, and the Portuguese in

1497, we lived continuously with insecurity and uncertainty. This insecurity is a metaphor for the meaning of Sukkot and the building of a Sukkah, a temporary hut.

What is amazing is that we traditionally refer to the holiday as, *z'man simchatenu*, “our time of joy.” For centuries, we've managed to rejoice even during hard times. Our spiritual strength reaffirms that faith is not something contingent on certainty. We remain steadfast and faithful even when we live through times of great uncertainty. The beauty of our Jewish traditions is that they are timeless and

relevant in any age. This Sukkot, may we have the faith to rejoice while facing the many challenges in these troubled times in which we live.

We've lived with insecurity and uncertainty for thousands of years and have not only survived but thrived. Our brothers and sisters in Israel are no strangers to a daily life filled with insecurity and uncertainty as they live surrounded by enemies sworn to destroy our land and our people. Even with the constant threat posed by our enemies, Israel is ranked even higher than the U.S. on the happiness index of nations.

Maybe our ability to handle insecurity and uncertainty so well can be credited to the meaning of the holiday of Sukkot, when we leave behind the safety of our houses and sit in the Sukkah, a fragile hut exposed to the elements. To be able to do so and still say, this is *z'man simchatenu*, our festival of joy, is the

ultimate act of faith, which is the ultimate antidote to fear. Maintaining the faith to rejoice! This powerful message is one that we all need to be reminded of now more than ever. Chag Sameach. 🌍

Our civic obligations as Americans are tied to our Jewish ideals of Tikkun Olam — the healing of the world.

TO THE FOOD PANTRY, LUNCH BUNCH AND FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS.



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Discover the "God Thread"

By Rabbi Bruce Diamond

What's the point of getting old and why do it? Although it does have its moments, it's not very pleasant and never ends well. But I don't need to tell you what you already know, right? But, even so, most of us try to hang on as long as we can, enduring the constant relentless diminishing of our bodies and minds.



■ Rabbi Bruce Diamond

Life is voracious, a compulsive overeater. Even when full and it feels like it just can't eat another bite of life, it keeps trying to eat.

Life is tenacious, often hanging on when it should let go. "Life has a life all its own" and senses just how valuable and irreplaceable it is.

It won't leave without a struggle unless it gets what it wants, what it's been after all along. Then, when it gets it, it lets go a lot easier, sometimes even gladly. Mission accomplished.

enough time. Talk about being shortsighted!

Life intuitively otherwise and knows that it is no accident. From amoeba to human, life battles to preserve and protect itself because it senses how supremely important it is and doesn't give up without a fight, even when all logic dictates that it should stop a struggle that ultimately must fail.

Life only willingly lets go when it peacefully surrenders itself to God after a lifetime's quest, when its yearning has been satisfied as best it can. Not only martyrs do this, but it is a good example. "Into Your hands I commit my life." (Psalm 31:5)

So, what's the point of getting old? The final chapters take all the experiences of a long time and sift through them, panning for gold in the river of time. The final chapters embrace and examine all that has come before — the joys and sorrows, victories and defeats, pleasure and pain, love and hates — to discover the thread that runs through it all, the "God Thread."

We then turn our back on it all, each of us a Theseus grasping that thread to guide us out the labyrinth and towards the light. We offer life a gift in return for all that it has given us by giving it the freedom to go where it wants to go, not where we have been forcing it until now.

This is not a new idea. Not hardly. A thousand years before our Bible was compiled, the Vedic religion of ancient India understood and taught this. It divided life into four stages called asramas: the student, the householder, the explorer and, finally, the Sannyasa. The Sannyasa no longer focuses on material things, achievements and recognition, and the complexities of interpersonal relationships. All the matters now is mosksha — inner serenity that enables spiritual searching and discovery.

Abraham began his spiritual odyssey when he was 75, Moses when he was 80. One lived to be 175, the other 120. It may be that you don't have quite that much time to do this. So, what are you waiting for?

And besides, it sure beats pickleball and mahjong, eh? 🍷

Life only willingly lets go when it peacefully surrenders itself to God after a lifetime's quest...

But, what, ultimately, does life want? What is it after, this powerful force imbedded within us, driving us in ways that we do not always understand? While the body wants to procreate and pass its organic information forward in time, life wants something entirely different and timeless.

It wants God — the ultimate cause of its existence and its purpose, the "Big Why."

Those who deny religion of any kind don't address "whys." They are content with surface questions like "What is this?" and "How does this work?" — about what is commonly called science. Science studies the effects but not the cause.

For those who take it on faith that there is no God, everything that exists is merely the result of random accidents. They myopically assume that whatever can exist will exist given

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The Jewish Family Services division of the Jewish Federation has found that clients with limited English language skills encounter difficulty accessing social services otherwise available in our community. We would like to help break this language barrier.

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The hope of Simchat Torah

By Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer

There's a story that's been told about young Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berdichev. Already widely respected for his erudition and unique path to spirituality, one year he was given the honor to intone the Atah Horeita prayer to begin Simchat Torah.

Rabbi Yitzchak approached the central podium in a state of constrained ecstasy and picked up his tallit to begin the prayer. However, to the bemusement of the assembled crowd, he paused for a moment of contemplation, and then put down his tallit.

After a short while, he again picked up the prayer shawl, only to put it down again.

When he picked up the tallit for the third time, an uneasy murmur filled the synagogue. The young rabbi seemed to be fighting a silent battle with an unseen opponent. Finally, he put down the tallit and announced, "If you're

such a scholar, then you lead the prayers!" and stomped back to his seat.

When asked for a justification of his unusual behavior, Rabbi Yitzchak explained that as he had approached the podium, he

had suddenly realized that he was not alone; his *yetzer hara* (evil inclination) wished to accompany him in prayer.

"You don't belong here," he challenged the tempter. "I have been selected to represent the community because I am a scholar. What legitimacy do you have?"

"If you are a scholar, then I'm a scholar, too," the evil one replied. "Wherever you studied, I was right there with you."

"But I am a true Chassid," Rabbi Yitzchak counterclaimed. "I have just returned from the rebbe's court, where I learned to pray as a Jew should and devote myself to Godliness."

"I, too, am a Chassid. When you journeyed to learn with the rebbe, I



■ Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer

came along for the ride. I have every right to join you in prayer tonight and keep you company under that tallit."

"I could not win," he confessed. "He was right. I admitted to myself that I had been living a lie. The ties that bound me to evil were as strong as they were when I first began my journey of faith. I was almost ready to concede in despair, when I turned on my tormentor and

cried, 'If you are a Chassid and a scholar as you claim, then you lead the prayers, and leave me out of it,' and I ran from the stage."

What does this all mean?

I would suggest that Rabbi Yitzchak was making a fundamental argument about our attempts at self-improvement.

We try to change ourselves for the better, yet how many can claim to have truly reformed? The sad reality is that

we bring all our character flaws and baggage along with us on our journey through life.

Rosh Hashanah has come and gone; Yom Kippur is already a memory. We reflected on our lives and promised to change,

but two weeks into the new year, we should stop to ask, what are we doing to make the change happen?

Simchat Torah expresses our hope that our High Holy Day thoughts and prayers were not in vain. Simchat Torah is our chance for passion and purpose. We may have spent the hours praying on the Holy Days but are we sure that our inclination towards evil isn't still with us?

On Simchat Torah, we open up our hearts. We dance with joy till we drop and allow the spirit of the day to permeate our souls. We turn our Rosh HaShanah into Rosh HaShinui — from the beginning of the year to the beginning of change. 🌟

Simchat Torah is our chance for passion and purpose.

A thing of beauty

A thought for the new year

By Rabbi Solomon Agin

A family on one particular block let their home become dirty and dilapidated. The house needed painting, the lawn was filled with weeds and it was an eyesore to the neighborhood. Many friends and neighbors pleaded with them to make an effort to clean and care for their home, but to no avail.

One day in autumn, a friend of the man gave him a bulb and asked him to plant it under



■ Rabbi Solomon Agin

its way to the surface. A while later, a yellow flower unfolded. As the family sat in their front room, the wife said, "That flower is so beautiful, I think I'll clean the window so we can get a better view of it." After she completed her task, she noted that the curtains looked drab, so she decided to wash them. Her husband, moved by the contrast between the curtains and room, decided

to clean the house.

Inspired by this, the next week he hired painters to redo the exterior of the house. Eventually, the entire family worked to make the lawn the most beautiful in the neighborhood. All of this resulted from one friend, one seed and one flower.

When beauty is properly appreciated and understood, it can be an inspiration to beautify our lives.

When you see a beautiful plant, pronounce the benediction: Praised be God who creates beautiful things. 🌟

"When beauty is properly appreciated and understood, it can be an inspiration to beautify our lives."

his front window. It was a gesture of friendship, so he planted it. Early in spring, a little green shoot pushed

TEMPLE JUDEA PRESCHOOL

Fort Myers

Suki Kelly, Preschool Director

September was a month full of fun! Temple Judea Preschool children celebrated Rosh Hashanah by apple-stamping and taste-testing different kinds of apples. We talked about being kind to our family and friends and thought about how we can be kinder for the new year through Yom Kippur. We are excited to welcome the fall months and cooler weather. During September, we planted various vegetables and herbs in the TJP garden. We are looking forward to harvesting and tasting the vegetables in the coming days.

October is going to be a fun month, celebrating Sukkot by decorating, reading stories and enjoying snacks in the sukkah. TJP will also host its annual Trunk or Treat fundraising event for our current and Kindergarten families at the end of this month. We will have fun activities and lots of treats for our children.

Firefighters will visit TJP for Fire Prevention Week to talk about fire safety. The children are excited to spray the hose and learn about being safe around fires.

If you are interested in enrolling your child, please reach out to Suki at templejudeapreschool@gmail.com or 239-482-1121 to schedule a tour. We have limited availability in some of our classrooms.

Mommy and Me is coming back to TJP! Join Ms. Lisa for a morning of circle time, songs, movement and arts and crafts. Every week, Ms. Lisa will make a special snack for you and your child and give you a recipe to take home. It is a great introduction to school and a great way for parents to meet other families in the community. If you are interested in joining Mommy and Me, please give us a shout!

We hope everyone is having a wonderful new year and fall holiday season. 🌟

Candle lighting times:

October 6: 6:50 p.m.

October 13: 6:43 p.m.

October 20: 6:36 p.m.

October 27: 6:30 p.m.



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Fort Myers
Allison Fego, Religious School Coordinator

What a great beginning to our school year! Our families have been very active in volunteering to help out during school events. We had lots of fun making homemade applesauce for Rosh Hashanah that we sold as a fundraiser. Thank you to everyone in the congregation

and friends and family who bought jars to help raise money for our school. Our students had a great time learning about Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Tashlich.

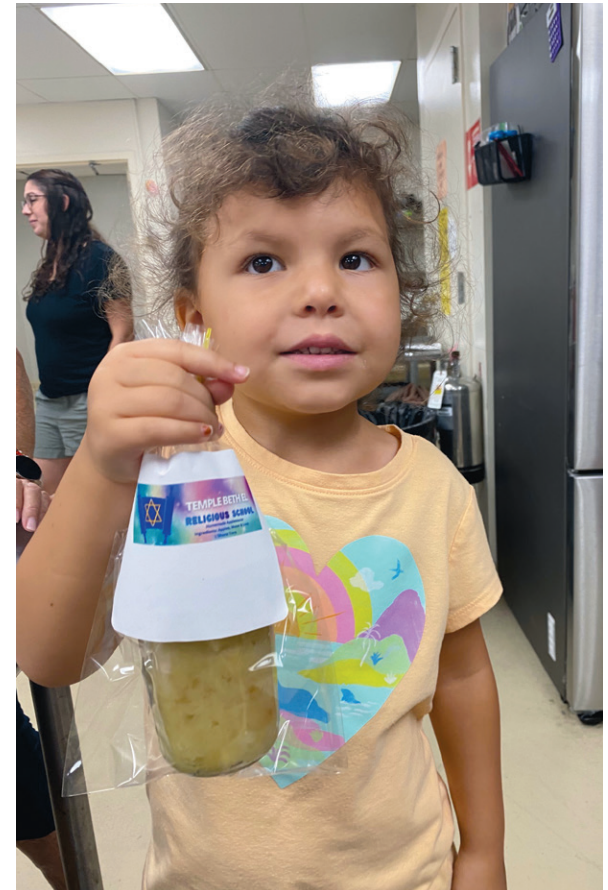
Morah Brianna and her students were busy identifying all the letters to spell out Rosh Hashanah in

Hebrew and they reviewed the colors in Hebrew. They also learned the concept of Hakarat Hatov, which means to recognize the good. The students watched a Shaboom video about the concept and made kites and flowers out of construction paper to represent the good that was given in the video. They also colored rainbows that identified each color in Hebrew. Morah Helen and her class have been busy learning Hebrew words by playing Hebrew hangman, which the children all love.

They have been learning about different places in Israel. The kids talked about the Western Wall, how you leave notes inside, and how there is a side for men and a side for women. During class, they got a chance to eat bamba, a Jewish snack.

Moreh Sam's class has been talking about Tashlich and what they should be saying "sorry" for. For Rosh Hashanah, they talked about why we wish people a sweet new year and then, during Yom Kippur, that they throw their sins away to start off the new year with a clean slate. Toward the end of class, Rabbi Luna worked with them on Hebrew Kung Fu. They learn the vowel sounds and match with movements. The kids all got a real kick out of doing it.

Our religious school students also had the opportunity to sing with Cantor Marshall Portnoy during Shabbat



Sarah Gardner with her homemade applesauce



Our wonderful parent volunteers during applesauce making



Hannah Shraiar and Morah Helen's Class in the kitchen

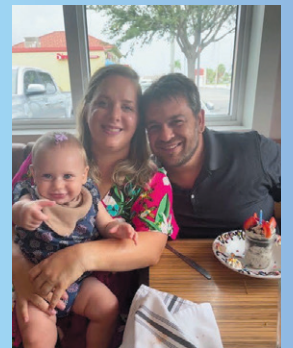
services, Rosh Hashanah and Neilah for Yom Kippur. It was amazing to see the students on the bima leading our congregation in song during the High Holy Days.

We are looking forward to the month of October, getting back into the groove of class after celebrating a wonderful holiday season. Keep a look out for pictures from our Parents Night Out and Childrens Magician event.

If you are interested in anything religious school related, please contact Allison Fego at religiousschool@templebethel.com.

PJ Library 
 Bring Jewish stories home

FAMILY OF THE MONTH



+ **Family Name:**

Schwed-Nickin

+ **How many kids are in your family and their ages?**

One 11 month old baby girl.

+ **How long have you been receiving PJ Library books?**

This will be our first time receiving PJ books

+ **How did you first hear about PJ Library, and what motivated you to join the program?**

I heard from a friend. Reading is one of my hobbies and I want to pass this to my daughter. What a better way to do it then by teaching her our religion.

+ **PJ Library is all about fostering Jewish values and traditions. Can you share some ways in which you've integrated these values into your daily life?**

We treat everyone with respect including our dog, who is part of the family. We are compassionate and love is very important and we try to keep up with the traditions, such as Shabbat dinner every Friday.

+ **What are your hopes for your family's continued involvement with PJ Library in the future?**

We hope to have many books and stories to read with our daughter to keep the strong Jewish traditions in our family, teaching her where she comes from.

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BBYO

Naples/Fort Myers

Cayla Schreier, BBYO Southwest Coordinator

A successful kickoff event provided the Naples BBYO teens a strong start to the 2023-2024 school year. Our newly elected Naples BBYO chapter board planned and hosted the “Maccabeach Games” held at Lowdermilk Park on Sunday, Aug. 27, where Naples BBYO welcomed returning members, new members and prospects to the games. Nineteen teens attended and four teams competed in volleyball, spike ball and cornhole games. The teens learned about the significance of Judah Maccabee and the Maccabi games, and how we can tie their teachings into our daily lives. The events ended with pizza, snacks and BBYO trivia.

Our region, the North Florida Region, is hosting a regional kickoff on Sunday, Sept. 10 at Andretti Indoor Karting and Games in Orlando, Florida. Southwest Florida teens will travel, along with the Sarasota and Tampa teens, to this event. They are excited to reunite with their old BBYO friends and make some new ones.

September has been busy with Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and the High Holy Days. BBYO wishes everyone a happy, healthy and sweet new year 5784 — L’Shana Tova!

While Naples BBYO has had a quiet September, our teens are planning a strong return with numerous events in October:

- On Sunday, Oct. 1, they will have an event to celebrate Sukkot.

- On Sunday, Oct. 15, the teens are throwing their first ‘Wow’ Event: Naples BBYO Mockmitzvah. This event will be open to all Jewish teens attending eighth through twelfth grades in Southwest Florida. Numerous BBYO chapters within the North Florida Region are hosting different ‘Wow’ events to provide BBYO members and prospects throughout the region an opportunity to attend a spectacular event.

- Ending the month of October, our teens will have a haunted corn maze bonding activity.

Please keep an eye out for more details regarding these events.

What is BBYO?

BBYO is a diverse and inclusive Jewish youth group with the purpose to encourage Jewish teens to become more immersed and interested in meaningful Jewish activities and programs. This organization accepts Jewish teens attending eighth through twelfth grades of all backgrounds, sexual orientations, genders, races, denominational affiliations and socioeconomic status. BBYO currently reaches more than 70,000 teens worldwide, with participants in over 60 countries and hundreds of chapters across the United States.



Supporting our teenage Jewish community

It is crucial to engage teens post-B’nai Mitzvah age in Jewish activities. Having teens get involved in BBYO and be eager to create and confidently continue their own Jewish community within their greater Jewish communities is critical to our future.


The BBYO chapter of Naples has entered its 11th year of partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples, Temple Shalom, Chabad of Naples and Beth Tikvah. Each organization provides financial support, volunteers and community involvement opportunities for the BBYO teens. We thank each and every one of our BBYO alum, friends and other supporters for making this a safe and positive

environment for the teens of BBYO Naples and Fort Myers.

If you know of someone with a teen who might like to join BBYO Naples or Fort Myers or know of someone who may want to be an advisor to our chapters, please email me at cschreier@bbyo.org. You can also follow us on Instagram at [Mishpacha_BBG](#) and [Negevaza](#).

Scholarships to attend BBYO conventions and summer programs are available through both Jewish Federation of Greater Naples and the Temple Shalom Men’s Club. Please contact me for more information on scholarships as well.

If you are a BBYO alum and would like to be included in our Friends and Alumni of BBYO mailing list, please email us at mjs0821@aol.com.



**JOSEPH HOROWITZ
ISRAEL TRAVEL GRANT**

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

OUR HOPE

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

THIS GRANT

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

TOP JEWISH FOUNDATION

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

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Where has the year gone? Autumn has arrived, bringing cool breezes and new opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. It also brings holidays of thankfulness and togetherness, with Sukkot arriving on Sept. 29, Simchat Torah soon after in October, and thoughts of Thanksgiving in November.

We at Temple Beth Shalom have so much to be thankful for this autumn. We have reached a wonderful milestone. On Sept. 5, 2023, TBS celebrated the 50th anniversary of our founding as The Jewish Community Center of Lee County. We have grown and thrived to become a significant house of gathering and worship for our Jewish brothers and sisters in Cape Coral and surrounding areas.

As we continued the modernization of our building, TBS expanded programs and activities under the leadership of our spiritual leader Cantor Barry Butensky and dedicated Board of Directors. We offer Friday evening services in person and on Zoom, Saturday morning Torah worship and discussion, children's classes and family dinners, weekly mahjong, camera club, book group and cultural programs.

Our monthly informal brunch and chat at a member's home features a scrumptious potluck selection of Jewish dishes and stimulating discussion of relevant topics.

This month, as we celebrate our golden anniversary, we invite you, your family, friends and neighbors to come to TBS and experience the joyous celebration of Sukkot and Simchat Torah with us. These holidays are a time of dancing, singing and embracing the richness of our Jewish traditions. We gather to rejoice in the celebrations of our faith and unity of our community.

Temple Beth Shalom is a small, warm, welcoming and inclusive Jewish community. As a member of The Union of Reform Judaism, we embrace members from all lifestyles and branches of Judaism. We invite you to join us for services, holiday celebrations, social activities and educational opportunities. At the end of each event, we enjoy time together at an informal and delicious gathering.

Join us as a guest, leave us as a friend, and return as part of our family!

Best wishes for a good year filled with health, joy and fulfillment. 🌟

TEMPLE JUDEA
Fort Myers

(239) 433-0201 • www.tjswfl.org

Celebrations continue in October at Temple Judea.

Rabbi Marc Sack's Intro to Judaism class resumes Oct. 2. The class is a must for anyone interested in conversion to Judaism but is open to all who have an interest in learning. Adult education classes will resume Nov. 6.

Temple Judea Religious School, under the direction of Religious School Coordinator Abbie Grossman, continues. Tot Shabbat will be Oct. 13 at 5 p.m. Join her for music, stories and creativity.

Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah services are Friday Oct. 6 and Saturday, Oct. 7. Friday Oct. 6, a spaghetti dinner (no charge, RSVP required) at 5:30 p.m. is followed by services at 6:15 p.m., celebrating the giving of the Torah and the start of a new cycle. Services on Saturday, Oct. 7 start at 9:30 a.m. and include Yizkor. Kiddush lunch will follow in the Sukkah.

Leila Cheyenne Frey will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Oct. 27 and Oct. 28. Leila's proud parents are Michael and Eloise Frey. Her sister is Devyn Frey. Leila is a student of the Dunbar gifted program. She is a nationally ranked dancer, who loves all forms of dance.

Hazak will offer activities in October. For information, please contact the office at 239-433-0201.

Chaverot is looking for members to create activities with their ideas and interests. Book club will meet Oct. 17 at 6 p.m. The next book is "Our Missing Hearts" by Celeste Ng. Bring a pareve or dairy dinner. RSVP to Lynn Talone at talonefm@comcast.

Temple Judea continues to accept food donations to the Cadkin Foundation Food Pantry at Jewish Federation. There are collection envelopes near the front door for contactless monetary or gift card contributions. Contributions may be mailed. Please call the office to ensure your contribution has been received.

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

Regularly scheduled events: Friday evening Shabbat services preceded by wine and cheese at 6:15 p.m., services at 6:30. Saturday morning Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m. Kiddush luncheons will be served every Shabbat. To sponsor, contact JoAnn Lewin. Morning minyan is held every Monday at 9 a.m., followed by discussions with Rabbi Sack at First Watch on McGregor.

We'd love to see you in person or on Zoom. 🌟

CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
Fort Myers

(239) 433-7708 • www.Chabadswf.org

Please join us for our schedule of services in October 5784 (2023).

Shabbat schedule

Friday night: Welcoming the Shabbat Services – October at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday morning: Kabbalah class at 9 a.m.; Schacharit (Hodu) at 10 a.m.

Sukkot schedule

• Friday, Sept. 29 – Sukkot services at 6:45 p.m.

• Saturday, Sept. 30 – Sukkot Day 1: Kabbalah at 9 a.m.; services at 10 a.m.; children's program from 10 a.m. to noon and evening service at 6:45 p.m.

• Sunday, Oct. 1 – Sukkot Day 2: Kabbalah at 9 a.m.; services at 10 a.m.; children's program from 10 a.m. to noon and evening service at 6:45 p.m.; Havdalah at 7:48 p.m.

• Friday, Oct. 6 – Shmini Atzeret services at 6:45 p.m.; Rabbi's birthday party

• Saturday, Oct. 7 – Sukkot/Shmini Atzeret Kabbalah at 9 a.m.; services at 10 a.m. (Yizkor at 11 a.m.); children's program from 10 a.m. to noon; and services at 6:30 p.m. followed by a **Grand Simchat Torah party**

• Sunday, Oct. 8 – Sukkot/Simchat Torah Kabbalah at 9 a.m.; services at 10 a.m., children's program from 10 a.m. to noon and evening service at 6:45 p.m.; Havdalah at 7:41 p.m.





Shana Tova

Shana Tova — may you all be written in the book of life and a year infused with all blessing for prosperity, health and all that your heart desires. 🌟



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TO JOIN & FOR MORE INFORMATION

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



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TEMPLE BETH EL Fort Myers

(239) 433-0018 • www.templebethel.com

With the High Holidays behind us, October kicks off with Sukkot, Sh'mini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. Sukkot begins on Sep 29. Come shake the lulav and sniff the aroma of the etrog with us during a noon Lunch & Learn in our Sukkah on Oct. 5.

At services on Friday, Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m., we will celebrate reading the Torah to its very last sentence ... then immediately start again from the beginning, "Bereshit bara Elohim..." Services will be preceded by a delicious and festive Simchat Torah dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Our Sisterhood has scheduled a Welcome Back Luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 12 at noon in the Dubin Center. Our guest speaker will be image consultant Christine Sherlock. "Image consulting is a rare combination of science, art and a touch of magic," says Christine on her website.

Just a few days later, Sisterhood's ever-popular Ladies who Lunch will happen on Monday, Oct. 16 at 12:30 p.m., location TBA. For our animal lovers, our annual pet blessing event will be held Sunday, Oct 22 at 9:30 a.m.

Religious School is in swing, and our enrollment is growing. Follow us on Instagram @tbereligiousschoolfm. There is a Parents Night Out event at 6 p.m. on Oct. 28 with a magician to entertain the kids. We hope to have more of these events going forward.

Our recurring Temple Beth El programs continue, which include:

- Nonperishable food items can be dropped off in the temple lobby shopping cart whenever the building is open.
- All are welcome Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. for Torah study on Zoom.
- Book club – Oct. 6 at 2:45 p.m. on Zoom. October's selection is "The Garment Maker's Daughter" by

Hillary Adrienne Stern. Heads up on the November selection: "Saving the Music" by Vincent B. "Chip" LoCoco. The Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month.

- Tot Shabbat, a kid-friendly service, is Oct. 6 at 6 p.m. Come for the fellowship, the pizza and the fun. Please RSVP to 239-433-0018 so we can be sure we have enough food.

- History & Heritage of Our People is the third Tuesday of the month, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

- Shabbat services open to all: Fridays at 7:30 p.m., live in the sanctuary, on Zoom and streaming on Facebook.

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

To learn more about Temple Beth El and its special events, Shabbat services and recurring programs, visit our website at templebethel.com. There's always something happening here — Current Events, Coffee & Chat, Theology & Life, Francophone & Hispanophone Groups, Environmental Group, Solo Travelers, Caring Visitors — and our members make it happen.

Follow us on Facebook @TempleBethElFortMyers and on Instagram @templebethelfortmyers and @tbereligiousschoolfm. You can always contact the office at 239-433-0018.

Temple Beth El ... where everyone matters. 🌍

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS Sanibel

(773) 251-8862 • www.batyam.org

We are delighted to officially welcome our new Rabbi/Cantor, Elchanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer and his charming wife, Yaffah, to the Bat Yam family. Rabbi Sunny has a beautiful voice, is a talented guitarist and an all-around superb musician. We are enjoying his easygoing manner and his unique way of sharing his knowledge of Judaism and the Torah.

Selichot was observed on Saturday evening, Sept. 9 at the Jewish Federation. They have been incredibly supportive to us, and we are very grateful. Commemorating Selichot traditionally includes a special, reflective service to begin the High Holy Day season.

However, this year our new rabbi felt that after the many challenges our congregation had lived through, we needed a lighthearted way to begin our time together. Following Havdalah, we were treated to the film, "Jews and Baseball: An American Love Story," narrated by Dustin Hoffman. Of course, refreshments included hot dogs, peanuts and sodas.

The other High Holiday services were held at Peace Lutheran Church in Fort Myers. On Yom Kippur, we held our traditional Congregants' Hour and heard heartfelt talks by Michael Hochschild, Dr. Mort Tavel and our new rebbetzin, Yaffah Schnitzer.

On Sept. 28 at 3 p.m., exactly one year after Hurricane Ian struck, Rabbi Schnitzer and other Bat Yam leaders participated in an interfaith commemorative service of hope at St. Michael's Church.

On Friday, Sept. 29, we celebrated the festival of Sukkot with a Sukkah

built by Rabbi Schnitzer and Bat Yam members.

Bat Yam is excited to be moving back to its Sanibel home in the SCUCC after a year of hurricane-related renovations and repairs. We hope to be back there early in October.

It is a new year and a new beginning or the annual cycle of Torah reading with Parsha Bereisheet. Rabbi Sunny will lead weekly Saturday morning Torah study beginning at 10 a.m. Oct. 7.

After a yearlong hiatus brought about as a result of Hurricane Ian, Bat Yam is delighted to welcome back our pianist, Abbey Allison.

Kudos to Rabbi Sunny for his interesting article on page 22 of a recent issue of the SCUCC Newsletter. You can find the newsletter on their website.

On Sunday, Nov. 5, Rabbi Schnitzer will be a guest speaker in the Kristallnacht 2023 Commemoration sponsored by the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue (CJD) at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 5225 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples.

Bat Yam members Riv Swartz and Dr. Mort Tavel chaired our Cookbook Committee and produced "Bat Yam's Favorite Recipes" cookbook. The books, with over 125 recipes, will be available for purchase before Hanukkah and will make wonderful gifts. They can be purchased for \$10 each.

Bat Yam welcomes all the new Jewish families who have moved to Sanibel, Fort Myers and Captiva this past year. We are thrilled by the number of new households who have joined our congregation and invite other new residents to visit and learn more about us. 🌍

SHALOM LIFE CENTER Fort Myers

(239) 218-3433 • www.shalomlifecenter.org

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

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

Every Saturday morning at 10 a.m., SLC offers an interactive and participatory Torah study led by Rabbi Dermer with a focus on the relevance of our timeless traditions and bringing the ancient wisdom of Torah into our daily lives.

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

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

Let your spirit soar at Shalom Life Center, where community is family and prayer is always inspirational, meaningful and musical. For more information, visit www.shalomlifecenter.org. 🌍

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We are grateful to fabric artist and designer Valli Lamar, a C.F.S.er now in Tacoma, Washington, for creating a magnificent cover for our Torah lectern. It was designed by the Rabbi to honor the memory of his mother, Estelle Diamond, who died on Yom Kippur eve last year.

The congregation is once again deeply indebted to our music coordinator and principal soloist Traci Pavel for organizing the music for our Days of Awe worship. Joining Traci were pianist Carlos Garcia and cellist Tim Torres.

Thank you, Baron and Kim Cohen of Cohen & Cohen Catering for the delicious, sweet kugels and cake we served with our break-the-fast. The

Cohens are mainstays of C.F.S. , providing our community Hanukah and Passover dinners.

Once again, Publix made a very generous donation in sponsorship of our break-the-fast. It's charitable giving program helps keep all community meals free and open to all!

The link for the C.F.S. May 26 Israel Trip webpage is now posted on the synagogue's website, www.fortmyerssynagogue.com. Visit that page for details on the 10-day tour, registration and payment portal. The tour, led by the Rabbi, is limited to 35 participants.

Join us for our annual Sukkah "topping off" at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29, followed by qiddush in the Sukkah before our weekly Sabbath eve dinner at 6:30 and worship at 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Leila Gal Berner, director of Ezra Uganda, visited our friends at Ahavat Yisrael Synagogue in Itonko, Uganda and shared her very positive impression of a group of young Jewish pioneers building a new congregation in a very challenging setting. Rabbi Leila assured us that the more than 1,000 chickens we helped them acquire and continue feeding are flourishing and will be soon provide a steady revenue stream for the congregation.

The young women of Ahavat Yisrael design and knit wonderful kippot which are sold online. They were kind enough to create one for the Rabbi, which arrived just before Rosh Hashanah. C.F.S. will sell them at this year's Israelfest to help support their newest sister congregation.

Free Sabbath eve meals begin at 6:30 p.m. every Friday. They are open to all. You are welcome to bring a non-dairy dish to share, dessert or a bottle of wine. Worship follows at 7:30 p.m. followed by a social hour.

Sabbath morning Torah Study with the Rabbi is 9:30-11 a.m. each week on Zoom only. The C.F.S. Zoom room is easily accessed through the synagogue's website, www.fortmyerssynagogue.com.

C.F.S. is an open synagogue. We do not sell memberships or tickets, charge for any event, solicit donations or have fundraisers. All we do is free and open to all. We are comfortably supported by voluntary donations. Our purpose is prayer, study, mutual support and benevolence in a harmonious setting.

Please note that Days of Awe worship is conducted in the sanctuary on the Unity campus, 11120 Ranchette Road. Weekly gatherings take place in the chapel building at the same location.

Now in its 18th year, Rabbi Diamond leads the Community Free Synagogue. C.F.S. is "modern traditional," observing traditional forms of worship and study while embracing more inclusive contemporary values and ethical standards.

For more information, visit www.fortmyerssynagogue.com or email synfree@comcast.net. To speak with the Rabbi, call 239-247-4556. ☺



Our friends at Ahavat Yisrael Synagogue in Itonko, Uganda



Traci Pavel



Carlos Garcia



Tim Torres



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Hadassah miracles

By Joyce Taub, Collier/Lee Hadassah President

I hope you had a wonderful summer and now that we are in the middle of our High Holidays, I wish the very best for you for the coming year 5784! I want to thank you for your dedication and support that allows Hadassah to continue with its miracles in Israel, in the United States and around the world. Hadassah remains the heart and soul of medical innovation for more than a century because of generous supporters like you!

In past articles, I promised to share more of Hadassah's miracles with you. The following are just a few:

Miracle: ovarian torsion operation

In early August, doctors at Hadassah Ein Kerem achieved a medical first: they successfully operated on a newborn, saving her ovaries, less than 30

minutes after her birth via cesarean section. The baby's condition, known as ovarian torsion, is typically only seen in adults. The surgery had never been performed on a newborn until Hadassah's doctors successfully completed this operation.

Miracle: multiple myeloma treatment

In fighting cancer, Hadassah has an exciting experimental treatment that put 88% of patients with multiple myeloma, a rare type of cancer that develops from bone marrow cells, into remission, extending the patients' life expectancies.

Miracle: radiation using protons

An Israeli company called P-Cure is partnering with Hadassah to run the Proton Center in Modin, where radiation

using protons limits the harmful effect of radiation on healthy tissue.

Miracle: genetic engineering fights cancer

Doctors at Hadassah's Center for Melanoma and Cancer Immunotherapy and Hadassah Cancer Research Institute developed new technology in genetic engineering to fight cancer. It offers patients additional and stronger immune cells grown in the lab. They take a sample of white blood cells from the patient's blood and generate a large number of white blood cells. Using genetic engineering, they insert a synthetic gene into these cells that allows them to specifically recognize cancer, significantly delaying the progress of the disease.

Since we last celebrated the new year, we have so much to be proud of, and so much more to anticipate. **You** are

an indispensable component of Hadassah's inspiring work. I am optimistic that, with your generous donations, we can continue on this remarkable path!

Please join us for Collier/Lee Hadassah's upcoming programs:

Oct. 18, 10:30 a.m. – "Whatever Happened to the Great American Railroad?" This is the last of our Expanding Horizons Plus program. Jeff Margolis will enlighten us during brunch at the Nina Iser Jewish Cultural Center.

Nov. 15, 11 a.m. – "Keeping Our Faith" will be a Crafty Women's Artists' Showcase at the Audubon Country Club. Cantor Azu joins us in an interview with Diane Schwartz. A delicious luncheon is planned.

I wish you and your families a wonderful L'Shana Tova and may you and all of your loved ones have a sweet, joyful, healthy and peaceful year ahead. 🌟

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

May you be inscribed in the Book of Life

By Marina Berkovich, president

Shanah Tovah and all the blessings of 5784. There is something comforting in knowing that the reading of the Torah is a constant in the yearly cycle; it has survived and will survive even the most durable of us. I am always comforted to hear Hebrew prayers even as I don't understand words or am unable to follow the prayers as those whose Jewish education was not

stolen from them as it was from me and my people by the socialists.

We sometimes refer to Torah as the authoritative books of the Hebrew Bible or Tanakh. The first five books, Torah, impart the early human history from the world's creation, follow the people of the book through some of their trials and tribulations and establish specific laws. Some of those may be considered

unnecessary by today's standards, while others survived and are now the acceptable foundation of humanity, not only for Jews but for all three religions relying on the same book.

Every year, I struggle to reconcile myself to the fact that I'm unable to read the Torah as it was written, and accept the fact that, much like when women were not given the opportunity to study the holy texts, I have to rely on translations, rabbinical sermons, instructions and interpretations. I am at the synagogue too infrequently for serious study and during my visits, I read and absorb just a few paragraphs, in awe of those who were taught from the start and know what they are reading while I try to connect the dots.

I suppose my delays are somewhat excusable by numerous plausible circumstances. Still, while I only blame myself, I have never found a guide, a teacher, I could follow — though there really can be no excuses. At the start of each new Hebrew year, I promise to try again, and then I fail to set every other task aside to diligently learn our Bible on my own. In reality, ordinary people who are able to quote and read Hebrew texts are not there for explanations to the unlearned like myself.

So, again, as I reflect on the year that's ending and atone for my shortcomings, I realize that I may just enjoy reading the Tanakh as a historical novel with vivid characters to whom I relate or not and whom I want to emulate or not. After all, it's a book full of stories authored by various deliverers, about our collective past that transcended

eras and languages to preserve the very essence of what makes us, one and all, Jews. May we all thrive eternally.

And help us spread the word as we are planning a breakthrough — The Jewish Historical Society of SWFL will join Jewish-Russian Cultural Alliance on Oct. 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a historical first: The Day of Jewish Learning in Russian by Rabbi Gitik from Israel (at Nina Iser Jewish Cultural Center).

Your generosity helps continue the work of The Jewish Historical Society of SWFL. No amount is too small. Donate online, by mail or contact us at office@jhsswf.org.

Join the organization online at JHSSWF.org or mail us a check. Family membership is \$54; individual membership is \$36; student membership is \$18; and corporate sponsorship is \$300. If mailing a check, please send to The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida, 8805 Tamiami Trail North, Suite #255, Naples, FL 34108.

Members receive announcements, reminders and other wonderful information you would not want to miss.

We can be reached at 833-547-7935 (833-JHS-SWFL), www.jhsswf.org or office@jhsswf.org. The Virtual Museum of SWFL Jewish History is located online at <http://jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.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. 🌟

90% of PJ Library families say that they are very likely to recommend PJ Library to their family and friends.



*Results from PJ Library's 2016 Thematic Study prepared by Informing Change.

Parents in Lee and Charlotte counties whose children are enrolled in PJ Library participated in the survey.

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*Results from PJ Library's 2016 Thematic Study prepared by Informing Change.

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CHAVURAT SHALOM OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
chavuratshalom@gmail.com

The new Chavurat Shalom season

By Cheryl Fulmer, Ellen Feingold and Marcia Rudin

October is that month in the year when we start reading our Torah all over again from the beginning. The first Parsha is *In the Beginning*, B'ersheit. This year, the first Sunday in October is Simchat Torah when we celebrate our sacred book, the Torah. As a people, we collectively remember the events that occurred on Mount Sinai and we start reading our book all over again.

This year, via Zoom, Dr. Kathy Zoss led three special Shabbatot/High Holiday programs filled with traditional prayers and music: on Sept. 15, Erev Rosh Hashanah; on Sept. 22, Shabbat Shuvah; and on Sept. 29, Erev Sukkot. We thank Kathy for her efforts. In the month of Elul leading up to the High Holidays, Dr. David Berger blew the shofar before our Shabbat services. On Sept. 19, Rabbi Eve Rudin spoke via Zoom about the meaning and importance of the High Holidays. President Cheryl Fulmer led a memorial service, traditional during the High Holiday season, on Sunday, Sept. 24.

Presently, we are worshipping via our Shabbat services every Friday night at 7:30 p.m. and keeping in touch with

friends during our twice-monthly informal "Schmooze" sessions on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, also at 7:30 p.m. Both activities are held via Zoom. Drs. Ellen Feingold and Kathy Zoss organize the Shabbat services, with members helping, conducting the services, preparing the Torah commentaries and reading and singing the liturgy. If you wish to join us for one of these events, email Chavuratshalom@gmail.com to get more information and to receive the Zoom link.

Leading off the new season was a special presentation organized by our Speaker Series Committee headed by Irene Skolnick and Barry Fulmer on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m. At this event, Rabbi Danny Schiff spoke about "The Drama in Israel and What it Means for the Future."

Our Tzedakah committee conducted a Rosh Hashana outreach to members. The grants will be given to organizations helping combat the diseases of addiction to opioids, fentanyl and alcohol, and the homelessness that often results. Grants will also be given to aid victims of the Maui fire. We thank Tzedakah Committee members

Ellen Feingold, Evelyn Clark, Ying Przybyszewski, Sharon Berry, Shirley Frank, Cheryl Fulmer, Myra Klahr and Becky Kon.

We look forward to our new Chavurat Shalom season beginning in November. We have changed our days and times. Now all events will occur on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. (Eastern Time.) Led by Chavurat Shalom members or prominent outside speakers, beginning in November, the Lecture and Discussion sessions will take place on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. Our informal "Schmooze" sessions will be on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The third Tuesday of the month will be reserved for Chavurat Shalom board meetings. Also starting in November, Dr. Ellen Feingold will lead Torah Talk sessions on the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. The Len Minsky Current Events will take place on the other Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Our Shabbat Eve services will continue at 7:30 p.m. every Friday throughout the year. Although many of our members will not be back in

the Sanibel-Ft. Myers area because of Hurricane Ian, we will plan in-person get-togethers when possible.

Presently, all activities are held via Zoom until we can again gather in person for these and other special events. If you wish to join any of these events, please contact us at Chavuratshalom@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

Chavurat Shalom (Fellowship of Peace) is an informal group from every Jewish religious tradition that meets to worship and learn together. People of all faiths and localities are welcome. Chavurat Shalom is not affiliated with any organized movement. The group is community-led. Shabbat services are a blend of English and Hebrew, English readings and poems, Hebrew prayers recited or chanted and meaningful songs. Join us now via Zoom and lend your voice and thoughts for a Shabbat service, a Tuesday Speakers program or Saturday Torah Talk or Jewish current events by emailing chavuratshalom@gmail.com.

For more details about Chavurat Shalom and its activities, check our website at chavuratshalomofsouthwestflorida.org.

HURRICANE RELIEF ASSISTANCE



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



Jewish Federation
OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

genshoah@hmcec.org

Dispatch from a recent Holocaust conference, and more

By Shelley Lieb and Ida Margolis

The World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust and Descendants held its annual conference in Washington D.C. Aug. 25 to 28 with over 300 in attendance, from survivors to fourth generation (4G). Among the child survivors from throughout the U.S. were a number of individuals from the UK, including those who had been on the Kindertransport. The majority of those attending were 2Gs who had traveled

from all over the U.S. and Canada, including two GenShoah SWFL members, Jack Abel and Ida Margolis. Most of the workshops were for 2Gs, although there were some workshops for survivors and other generations of the Shoah.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Executive Director Sara Bloomfield stopped by to give greetings and an update. Pre-conference docent-led tours of the Museum also occurred and a post-conference tour was offered of the USHMM Shapell Center in Bowie, Maryland, which houses the Museum's collections and is a conservation and research climate-controlled center.

Included among the many information tables was one for Holocaust documentation, with research specialists from the USHMM Survivors and Victims Resource Center. Jude Richter, a research specialist, wanted our GenShoah members to be reminded that they can submit research requests online at <https://www.USHMM.org/remember/.resources-survivors-victims/.individual-research/services>.

To help locate information about victims and survivors of Nazi

persecution, individuals can submit an International Tracing Service Collection Research Request Form by going to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's website at ushmm.org/resource-center/service. Or visit the Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center on the second floor of the USHMM in Washington, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.

It was announced that the next conference of this group will be held next September in Toronto.

Speaking of stories, GenShoah encourages all survivors of any generation to submit their family's Holocaust story to be included in a collection that is posted on the website of our local Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center. This collection of "Portraits of Remembrance" is designed to be a resource for the greater community and our eighth graders in particular. Florida's curriculum includes Holocaust education in eighth grade.

We have 15 stories posted so far and two more on their way. Anyone interested in writing their family's Holocaust story should contact Judy Isserlis at jisserlis@aol.com for more information and guidance.

Survivors of all generations will be recognized and participating in a Kristallnacht program presented by the Naples Catholic Jewish Dialogue Sunday, Nov. 5, 2:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church. Everyone is invited.

GenShoah SWFL is a group for children and descendants of Holocaust survivors and anyone interested in the mission of GenShoah SWFL, which is:



Ida Margolis and Jack Abel, members of GenShoah SWFL, at Holocaust conference

- Promotion of Holocaust education and human rights
- Preservation of history and memories of the Holocaust
- Connecting the second generation with one another
- Support of the Holocaust Museum & Janet G. and Harvey D. Cohen Education Center

Our group is open to all interested people. There are no dues or attendance requirements. If you would like to receive our newsletter and program announcements, just send an email to liebrog@gmail.com. And, if you would like to volunteer to help with future programs, please let us know that, too! 🌍



Research and reference specialist at Holocaust conference

MAHJONG

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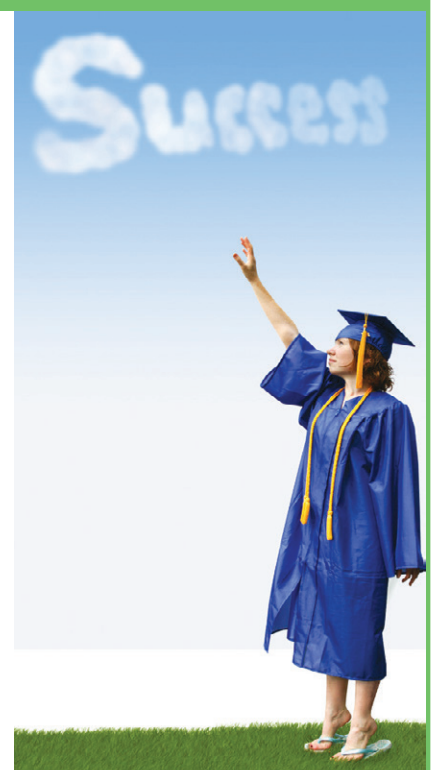
For more information, contact **Mindi Weinstein** at mindiweinstein@yahoo.com

High School Students: Earn CAS Credits!

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

If you are interested, please send the following information to debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org:

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



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

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

**CHABAD JEWISH CENTER
OF CAPE CORAL
ORTHODOX**

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

**CHABAD OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY
ORTHODOX**

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

**CHABAD LUBAVITCH
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
ORTHODOX**

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

**SYNAGOGUES &
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OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

www.JewishFederationLCC.org

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11120 Ranchette Road
Fort Myers, FL 33966
Rabbi Bruce Diamond
Phone: 239-247-4556
E-mail: synfree@comcast.net
Web site: www.fortmyerssynagogue.com
Free Friday dinner each week at 6:30 PM
open to all followed by worship at 7:30 PM
Weekly Torah Study, Sabbath worship and
Adult Education visit
www.fortmyerssynagogue.com for the
schedule of events and Zoom logon
Information.
All events are free and open to all

SHALOM LIFE CENTER

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

**TEMPLE BETH EL
REFORM**

16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908
Rabbi Nicole Luna
E-mail: rabbiluna@templebethel.com
Learning Tree Preschool Director: Amy Amon
Email: learningtreefortmyers@gmail.com
President: Reina Schlager
Email: tbeboard@templebethel.com
Phone: 239-433-0018 • Fax: 239-433-3235
Office Manager: Karen Kagan
Email: manager@templebethel.com
Web site: templebethel.com
Shabbat services: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Torah study 9:00 a.m. Saturday
Religious & Hebrew School:
9:30 a.m.- Noon Sunday
Judaica Gift Gallery
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism;

**TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
REFORM**

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

CHAVURAT SHALOM OF SWFL

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

TEMPLE JUDEA

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

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

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

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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

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OR 239-481-4449 EXT. 4

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