

L'SHANA TOVA

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SEALED FOR A GOOD YEAR

From the Board & Staff
of the Jewish Federation

L'CHAYIM

Published by the

Jewish Federation
Lee and Charlotte Counties

www.JewishFederationLCC.org

Vol. 44, No. 1 ■ September 2021 / 5782

Jewish Family Services update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

There is a family of Holocaust survivors whom the Federation helps. I've come to know them well. They are dear to me. As we were saying goodbye during our last visit,



■ Jodi Cohen

Mrs. X put her hand on her heart and said, "Thank you, thank you Jodi. No one has helped us the way you (The Federation) have in all the years we've been here. I mean

it in every way." She paused, "Do you know what I am saying?"

Oh yes, I do indeed. I immediately thought of all of **you** who support the Jewish Federation and make it possible for us to help all of the families that

we do with their medical, utility and water bills, car repairs, school clothes and groceries. While Jewish Family Services helps people in emergency situations with a one-time offer of assistance, it makes all the difference to people who don't have the means themselves or the support within their community.

Some people who call JFS don't belong to a community and don't have anyone they can call on for help. This is difficult for me to comprehend, since I am always thinking in terms of making a *shidduch*, a match, between people and resources. It is humbling to ask for help. It is also humbling to consider all the people whom you personally could, and maybe did, call on for help. *Tikkun Olam*, repair of the world, provides an ongoing opportunity for those

of us with connections, abundance and compassion to practice generosity on a daily basis.

We are approaching the High Holy Days and my gratitude soars when I reflect on the coworkers, Federation board members, volunteers and you, our precious community members, who helped me navigate this past year. I thank each and every person for their contributions during a year when so

many reached out to Jewish Family Services for help and for making the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties the successful organization it is today.

Thank you for the gift cards, the groceries, the notes you send with your checks, the emails of appreciation, the calls asking if any clients have a need for clothes or furniture, as well as the

continued on page 2

JFS NEEDS

From time to time Jewish Family Services clients need housing, storage, household items, etc. While the Federation does not have the capacity to keep these items on hand, JFS NEEDS, published in L'CHAYIM and in our weekly newsletter, will list items as the needs arise in the hope that some in our community have the resources on hand to donate.

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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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**OCTOBER ISSUE
EDITORIAL DEADLINE:
Friday, September 3**

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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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Program notes

By Debbie Sanford, Program Director

Although it is sad to see the summer fly by, the anticipation of a new year brings with it the hopes and possibilities of wonderful things to come. While we at the Jewish Federation have spent a good part of the summer planning for our new calendar of programming, I personally have been very busy at home too. My family and I recently moved to Fort Myers. I will miss Charlotte County and all that it offered, but I am so excited to be in Fort Myers. I have been back in the office full-time. What a schlep it was to get here from Charlotte Harbor, especially during season. I won't miss that! So if you see me out and about as I plan on doing a lot of exploring, stop me and say hi.

I plan on offering lots of great programs this fall, virtually for now, in hopes that the rate the Delta variant is spreading slows down tremendously and we can start to meet again in person. We do have one outdoor event planned for the New Year. Our PJ Library fami-

lies are all invited to Lakes Regional Park on Sunday, September 12 at 1:00 p.m. We will have entertainment, refreshments and a volunteer mom reading to the kids. If you would like to join us, the event is for families with children eight and under whether you are a current PJ Library subscriber or not, To RSVP, call me or email me at debbiesanford@jfedor.org.

If you are wondering about the Jewish Film Festival, we plan on being at Regal from February 6-27. Opening day is on a Sunday with films on each Tuesday and Thursday evening through the month. Sponsorship information and the film lineup will be out next month and tickets will go on sale in November. Look for it all here in **L'CHAYIM** and on our website at JewishFederationLCC.org/JFF2022.

So many of us almost instinctively wish each other "a happy and a healthy new year." Though we always mean it, healthy never seemed more real a wish than it does these days.

I extend heartfelt best wishes to my community family for the New Year. To you and your loved ones, may you know peace, good health and contentment in 5782.▲

Jewish Family Services update...continued from page 1

calls to check in and say thank you. There are new food pantry clients each month, and every time I hand someone a \$25 gift card and explain that she will receive a card each month along with groceries, toiletries and feminine hygiene supplies, her eyes open wider and the gratitude is palpable. A heartfelt thank you to The Cadkin Foundation for these gift cards.

We postponed the food pantry volunteer appreciation dinner due to the recent surge of Covid cases. Still, I raise a slice of pizza to the following people for their fabulous spirit and hard work on a regular basis: Arnie Obstein, Barbara Betchen, Barbara Gribin, Carolyn Gora, Debbie and Hank Feinberg, Doreen Kostel, Elisa Grossman, Elise Sewall, Gail Mishler, Harriet Lipschutz, Jodi Engelman, Karen Whitman, Laurie McConville, Linda Silver, Randi & Payton Wolf, Robert Thomas, Ruth Lefberg, Samantha Guterman, Sue Goldfarb, Suzanne Orkin, Tracey Seigel, Valerie Franklin.

As someone who leads a self-examined life, I commit to examining my own attitude and behavior between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur so I can better serve in my role at JFS. Just like *Jeopardy!*, I too have categories, including: Patience, Tone of Voice, Accep-

tance, Communication, Compassion and Put Down the Scoreboard Already.

May you be written in the book of life.▲

Friendly Visitor Program (virtual for now)



The Federation decided to postpone the Senior Lunch Program due to the Covid resurgence. However, we still want to stay in touch with our Jewish seniors!

We're inviting volunteers to **call or Zoom with one or two people on a regular basis**. Stories and connection are what make the world go 'round. Make a new friend and perform a mitzvah at the same time!



Interested in the Friendly Visitor Program?
Call or email Jodi Cohen: 239.481.4449, x2
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**For a continuously updated
calendar of events, visit
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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 honor of Jim Lewin's 75th Birthday
from Steve & Toni Goodman

In memory of Gorman & Eudice Jaffe
from Lynn Jaffe

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MAKE A TRIBUTE GIFT

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

Visit our website & Make a Gift
jewishfederationlcc.org/tribute-memorials

A personal Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties tribute card will be sent to the honoree or bereaved on your behalf, reflecting a personal message if you wish.



HOW THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES SERVES



Local Jewish Education and Culture

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



Overseas

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



Local Seniors Services

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



Local Case Management Services

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



Local Emergency Services

- ◊ Food Pantry and Publix food cards.
- ◊ Emergency financial assistance grants.
- ◊ Education and aid associated with natural disasters.



Local Community Services

- ◊ Support families of children with special needs.
- ◊ Addressing pressing community needs related to volunteerism, institutional cooperation and community assessment and planning.

Jewish Community Foundation

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

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Rosh Hashanah, Canada Day and the Super Bowl

By Brian Simon, Federation Past-President

You may have noticed a theme has developed in this column of topics related to the Jewish holidays and calendar. It started with a Purim Spiel, which led to a Passover Spiel, which led to Alan Isaacs asking me if I was going to do one for every holiday. And here we are. If you'll indulge me again, I'd like to write about Rosh Hashanah.

The "Jewish New Year" is prescribed in the Torah with this sentence: "In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe complete rest..." So, our new year is the equivalent of July 1, perhaps to give a biblical origin to Canada Day.

We Jews actually have four "new years." Rosh Hashanah (1 Tishrei) is "the birthday of the world." Tu B'Shevat is the "birthday of the trees." The first of Nisan is the "new year for kings," and 1 Elul is the "new year for network TV shows."

The new years are spread out unevenly. They fall in months 1, 6, 7 and 11 on the Hebrew calendar. It's kind of like if you were singing a round of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" and the next guy waits until you're halfway through to start singing, and then the guy after him starts the third round almost immediately. Wouldn't that get

annoying? You'd be like, "Hey, you start right after I say 'boat,' and YOU start right after HE says 'boat!'"

Anyway, I was surprised to find out that the Torah does not make the claim that Rosh Hashanah even is "the beginning of the year," as its name implies. It only says that the day should be celebrated with rest and commemorated by loud blasts from the shofar. The Mishnah sets 1 Tishrei as the "new year for counting years." I like that distinction.

I've always found it clumsy how hockey and basketball have two counting years in each season, like 2020-21 or 2021-22. The NFL usually completes its regular season in one year but its playoffs in another, so Tampa Bay is the 2020 champion for the Super Bowl they won in 2021.

Actually, since the NFL now has more money than God, it has established its own form of time, in the form of Roman numerals. The Bucs are champions of Super Bowl LV. According to the NFL, anyone born before Super Bowl I must calculate their birthday backward. For example, if you were born in 1943, your NFL year would be XXIV BSBE (Before Super Bowl Era).

Rosh Hashanah is observed by not going to school or work (unless you're a rabbi or cantor, who are expected to work), going to services and critiquing the rabbi's sermon.

High Holy Day services are longer than Shabbat services, and when Rosh

Hashanah falls on a Saturday, oy, it's gonna be a while. The rabbi, knowing this is one of the few times when he or she is playing to a full house, prepares a special sermon. The cantor prepares special tunes for the prayers. According to the website myjewishlearning.com, "Both evocative and celebratory, the music for Rosh Hashanah is an occasion for great operatic innovation and displays of cantorial virtuosity." Nothing against operatic innovation and cantorial virtuosity, but sometimes you just want them to get through it. Whitney Houston made "The Star-Spangled Banner" a hit record. Bleeding Gums Murphy sang it, and only Lisa Simpson could stay awake for the entire 26-minute rendition.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks wrote that Rosh Hashanah is about looking ahead before we atone for our sins of the past year on Yom Kippur. This offers some rabbinic cover for why I look ahead to the end of the service.

Unlike Passover, there is no prescribed meal for Rosh Hashanah. Apples and honey are customary to symbolize the wish for a sweet new year, but don't sleep on challah and honey.

The symbolism of the apple is that it's round, representing the cyclical nature of a year. But the challahs are also round on Rosh Hashanah, and challah is just the best.

Jewish holidays fall on different dates on the Gregorian calendar from year to year. According to Wikipedia, the earliest possible date for Rosh Hashanah is September 5 (you may remember it happened in 2013), and the latest possible date is October 5. It hasn't fallen that late since 1967 and won't happen again until 2043 (assuming the world lasts that long).

One of the prayers we recite on Rosh Hashanah is Unetaneh Tokef, a vision of Judgment Day.

Just to clarify, the prayer is NOT referencing the film *Judgment Day*, starring Mario Van Peebles, Ice-T and Suzy Amis. None of them are Jewish, but Ice-T was in *The Magic 7* with John Candy, who was in *JFK* with Kevin Bacon.

John Candy was also Canadian, so we've come full circle.

My family wishes you a sweet new year, a meaningful fast on Yom Kippur, and a very happy Canada Day.▲

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Will space travel keep me grounded?

By Keith Grossman

Space. The final frontier. Where no man has gone before. What is actually required to tackle such a voyage where no man has gone before? That's not even an accurate statement. Five-hundred and one men (and a few women) have gone before.

And thanks to some white, rich, middle-aged dudes, it may be time to diversify further. Jeff Bezos, Richard Branson and Elon Musk want to bring space to us – the common man. They want to throw the space travel portal wide open and let anyone in.

Can they do it? Can just anyone travel in space? Based on recent events, it seems they can. This isn't brain surgery. It's only rocket science, after all.

Like every little boy, I wanted to travel into space. Not really, but John F. Kennedy said it was a priority. I believed him. And Shawna Smith, who sat across from me in third grade,

thought going to space was cool. Like every little boy, I would follow Shawna anywhere. She had my head in the clouds.

But I always thought space travel was a prohibitive blend of tedious and dangerous. Sure, a monkey could do it, but not without training and learning how to pull levers. Perhaps NASA exaggerated the challenge so it could have the solar system all to itself. I think the rest of us got wise when France shot a rocket into space. There are no vineyards out there, so did the French know something we didn't?

And now we are at a crossroads in space.

It seems space travel is now for the rich. Space tickets are costing hundreds of thousands of dollars – not the E ticket I needed to get on Space Mountain in 1975. For the cost of today's space ticket, I would expect it to include accommodations on the International Space Station (ISS). But it doesn't.

I wonder if one day the ISS will be an all-inclusive resort. Carrying change in a weightlessness environment without pockets in your space suit can be a real pain.

And talking about pockets, what would I pack for a trip to space? There's limited space in space, so I can't bring everything. There are no stores or restaurants in space, so I definitely have to think about food. In 2001, Pizza Hut delivered a pizza in space, so it's good to know there are takeout options.

I also need to consider the garbage I produce. Are there receptacles, or do I need to pack my own garbage bags? And where does that stuff get stored? Is it projected into the galaxy, or will I be using my garbage as bean bags?

And what about my own bodily waste? I'm somewhat certain I don't want to know that answer.

Fortunately, for these wealthy, out-of-shape space tourists, they'll only experience weightlessness for a few

minutes. No vertigo, nausea or malaise (I had to look that one up). A flight on their private jet to Martha's Vineyard takes longer.

Now that space travel is wide open, is it time to consider a trip? I realize now isn't the right time for me. No, it isn't about the thousands of dollars, rather, I have some scheduling conflicts.

Over time, the cost of space travel will decrease, and Rocket Mortgage will sponsor daily trips. That's when I'll clear my calendar. I expect it will be right around the time UFOs and climate change are really destroying Earth. I've been sketching out some escape pod plans, but I'm concerned rocket fuel isn't something you can just buy on the street corner. The wealthy control that too.▲



■ Keith Grossman

Can they do it? Can just anyone travel in space? Based on recent events, it seems they can. This isn't brain surgery. It's only rocket science, after all.

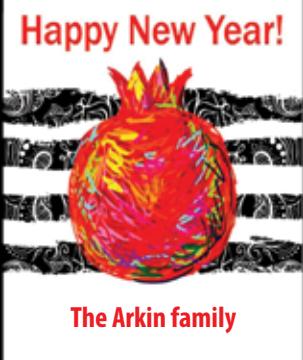
Like every little boy, I wanted to travel into space. Not really, but John F. Kennedy said it was a priority. I believed him. And Shawna Smith, who sat across from me in third grade,



Reina & Bob Schlager



Jeanette & Bob Burke



The Arkin family



Joe & Marcia Goldberg



Hy Tuchman



Carolyn Gora



The Start of the New Year

May the sounds of the shofar signal peace and unity for Israel and good health and contentment in our lives.

Sharon J. Rosenberg

Look for more New Year greetings from members of our Jewish community throughout this issue.

TOGETHER We can make a Difference



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High Holy Days

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MATTHEW AUSTERKLEIN GRADUATED WITH A MASTER OF SACRED MUSIC & CANTORIAL ORDINATION FROM THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN 2011, AND HAS HELD PULPITS AT CONGREGATION BETH EL IN BETHESDA, MD AND BETH EL CONGREGATION IN AKRON, OH. HE IS THE EDITOR OF TWO BOOKS, INCLUDING *ILU FINU: A CAPPELLA FOR JEWISH PRAYER* - THE FIRST EVER BOOK OF JEWISH LITURGICAL MUSIC IN CONTEMPORARY A CAPPELLA STYLE. RESIDING IN OHIO, HE IS CURRENTLY A PHD CANDIDATE IN JEWISH STUDIES AT MARTIN LUTHER UNIVERSITY HALLE-WITTENBERG (GERMANY).

HAZZAN AUSTERKLEIN IS MARRIED TO RABBI ELYSSA JOY AUSTERKLEIN (NÈE AUSTER), WHO SERVED AS RABBI OF TEMPLE JUDEA FROM 2011-2013. THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN -- GEORGIE & BEATRICE.

TO HEAR CANTOR AUSTERKLEIN USE YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA TO OPEN THIS LINK:



Schedule of Events

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES CONDUCTED BY
RABBI MARC SACK & CANTOR MATTHEW AUSTERKLEIN

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

8:30 PM

SELICHOTCHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT & PRAYERS
W/ERIC DOCHINGER AND
DAVID MASTRANGELO, MUSICIANS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

5:00 PM

5:30 PM

EREV ROSH HASHANAHCHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING
CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

9:30 AM

10:30 AM

ROSH HASHANAHCONGREGATIONAL SERVICE
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

TEMPLE JUDEA FOLLOWS CDC GUIDELINES FOR COVID-19

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

9:30 AM

ROSH HASHANAH

CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

6:45 PM

7:00 PM

KOL NIDRECHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING
CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:30 AM

10:30 AM

5:30 PM

6:15 PM

7:00 PM

7:56 PM

YOM KIPPURCONGREGATIONAL SERVICE
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING
DISCUSSION W/LOCAL LEADERS:
DR. DEBRA MATHINOS & MELISSA BARLOW
MINCHAH & READING OF JONAH
N'ILAH/HAVDALAH
SHOFAR BLOWING

CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES ARE BROADCAST ON ZOOM & FACEBOOK LIVE

Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center update

By Susan Suarez, President & CEO

A key component of teaching about the Holocaust and building mutual respect is strengthening empathy. Personal stories like *The Diary of Anne Frank* put the reader in the author's shoes, helping us to understand a different perspective. This is also why the personal stories of our local Holocaust Survivors are so important. Not only do they provide the facts about history, but also the feelings and emotions that make the story so much richer and memorable.



■ Susan Suarez

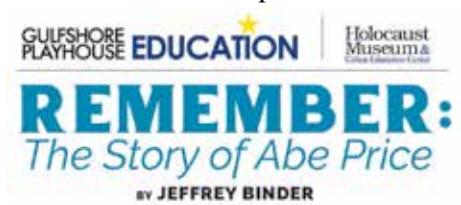
"We need to understand the other side to impact the other side. We become much more effective as humans and leaders when we engage in hearty conversations with those who are different from us, not necessarily to change our opinions, but to build the empathy muscle," says Daniel Lubetzky.

This year, as we celebrate our 20th anniversary, the Museum will share



many stories through our educational programs, Survivor talks, lectures, film discussions, and a new play in partner-

ship with Gulfshore Playhouse about the life of local Survivor and Museum volunteer Abe Price that will be performed at The Luncheon on Thursday, December 2. This in-person event will



be held at Arthrex One, the new event center on the Arthrex Campus in North Naples. Tickets and Sponsorship Packages are now available. For more information, email Tim@HMCEC.org or call 239.263.9200 x207.

This summer, we hosted a variety of student summer programs as well as private group tours for adults from across Southwest Florida. In addition, we had an increase in the number of public visitors, both local residents and people from out of the area.

The special exhibit in the Estelle and Stuart Price Gallery, "Caught on Film: The Wartime Photography of Ken Regele and the US Army Signal Corps," is on display through October 17, 2021. The collection of photographs came to the Museum from former US Signal Corps member Ken Regele, and it is one of the largest in our archives. It presents a unique eyewitness look at WWII as captured by Signal Corps cameramen. You'll see photos taken during battles, soldiers crossing hastily constructed Allied bridges alongside

destroyed German ones, famous celebrities visiting the troops and more.

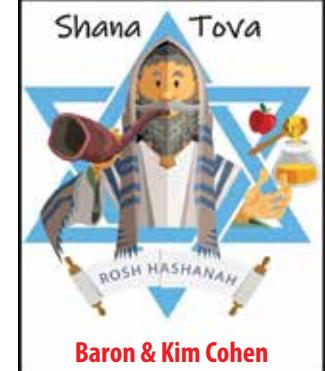
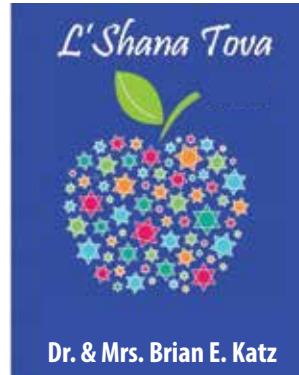
The Fall/Winter season

- ◆ The "Movies That Matter" series returns with three films about current human rights issues on Wednesdays, October 13, 20 and 27. Please check our website next month for details and to RSVP.
- ◆ "Vedem," the new exhibit about the Czech-language underground magazine created by teenaged boys in the Theresienstadt camp, debuts in November in the Estelle and Stuart Price Gallery. The exhibit will be accompanied by special in-person and Zoom programs during its run.
- ◆ In January and February 2022, Museum Docent Ellaine Rosen will present her five-part lecture series, "Nazi Looted Art – Unfinished Business." The series will take

place in person and cost \$100 for the series/\$20 per session. RSVP required. More details available on our website.

- ◆ In late February and early March, Museum Docent Stuart Mest, M.D. will present his two-part series, "Eugenics, Experiments, Ethics: Nazi Germany, Japan and the U.S." The cost for the series is \$40. RSVP required. More details available on our website.

We hope you'll plan a visit to the Museum soon. We also offer Zoom programs for synagogues, retirement communities and others who may not be able to travel to the Museum. To stay in touch with news and upcoming programming notes, sign up for our monthly newsletter. Our website — HMCEC.org — provides an easy-to-use link to do so. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.▲



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Temple Judea hosts Yom Kippur afternoon program with local community partners

By Doreen Kostel

Yom Kippur is nearly here. As we reflect on our past actions and atone, we also consider how we can influence and provide much-needed help to our world going forward.

Temple Judea has a tradition of Yom Kippur afternoon discussions led by local leaders making a difference in local lives that we as a community can learn from. Last year we learned about a program by Team Willis that was coaching young people in both sports and life skills like negotiation and diffusing heated situations. In the spirit of enhancing Temple Judea's relationship with our local community partner, The Heights Foundation/The Heights Center, this year we have invited Dr. Debra Mathinos, Chief Programs Officer and Charter School Director, and Ms. Melissa Barlow, Director of Arts and Community Programs, to talk about their programs and direction.

The Heights Center is in the Harlem Heights district, less than 1.5 miles to Temple Judea. The Foundation sponsors The Harlem Heights Community Charter School, The Heights Early Learning program and The Heights Center programs for family strengthening, lifelong learning and wellness.



Melissa Barlow

The Charter School, grades K-5, draws students from across Fort Myers, Cape Coral and Lehigh Acres. The classes provide individualized instruction to students identified as low achieving or who need English Language training. After grade 5, students enroll in public or private schools, and still have access to The Heights Center's afterschool programs which include study skills, cultural and performing arts, occupational training and GED support to the Harlem Heights community. The

Heights Center programs offer help to the community through connections with other providers of food, employment options and shelter assistance.

Ms. Barlow has collaborated with Temple Judea during the last year, helping us to participate in The Heights Foundation's Yearly Back to School Outreach, a Thanksgiving food pantry and its Year-End Toy Drive.

The Temple Judea Social Action Committee and Ms. Barlow have been discussing how to augment Temple Judea's support to The Heights. Ms. Barlow and Dr. Mathinos have identified an opportunity to support a new Heights Center program for life skills training to young adults. The program will cover financial skills, reading and



Temple Judea congregants help set up The Heights' Thanksgiving Food Pantry

writing skills, health and wellness knowledge, cultural arts and community/government activities. Temple Judea congregants have shown a strong interest in helping with the training in the areas of financial skills, community activities and job planning.

Dr. Mathinos and Ms. Barlow will bring the Temple Judea community up to date on opportunities for both existing and future programs to inspire Temple Judea congregants' interest

and strengthen our commitment. We look forward to the information and stories that Ms. Barlow will share, and to our re-commitment to providing much-needed help in our world.

If you are not a Temple Judea member but are interested in hearing their discussion, please contact the Temple Judea office at 239.433.0201 or tjswfl@gmail.com to be provided with instructions for online participation.▲

Sign up for the Federation's weekly e-blasts. Send an email to debbiesanford@jfedi.org.

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Temple Beth El Gift Gallery features the largest collection of Judaica in Lee County

By Karen Kagan

Step inside the doors of Temple Beth El and you may find your next family heirloom. "The Temple Beth El Gift Gallery features the largest collection of Judaica in Lee County, if not all of Southwest Florida," said Sisterhood President Karen Adelstein. "We love to showcase our Havdalah sets, kiddush cups, tallitot and menorahs, along with unique artisan creations, jewelry, hostess gifts, books and cards."



Curating the eclectic collection from scratch after last year's remodeling at Temple Beth El was viewed as an opportunity by Gift Gallery organizers. Their vision was to create a welcoming space featuring ritual and secular gifts

in styles ranging from traditional to contemporary to whimsical.

Displaying her Gift Gallery find before Shabbat services, shopper Phyllis Aronson said, "We purchased a gorgeous mezuzah for a friend's home. The choices are amazing."



Volunteer Linda Silver agrees. "The ability to see and examine each piece is so much fun," she said. "Our gift shop has more Judaica to offer than most gift shops I have visited throughout the country."

While many visitors are looking

for a specific ritual item, others browse the Gallery's selection of gifts. "I purchased several gifts for people I visit on vacation," said Mindi Weinstein. "There are so many beautiful Judaic items to enhance the ambience of everybody's home."

Providing a welcoming space for their customers is only part of the goal for Sisterhood, which operates the Gift Gallery. "Many temple initiatives, as well as Sisterhood events, are supported by our Gift Gallery. It's an important

part of our mission," said Adelstein.

Gift Gallery sponsors hope the ability to celebrate the holidays in person this year will encourage more people to visit the Gallery, which is located at 16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers.

Gift Gallery hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and before Shabbat services on Friday. For more information, please contact Karen Adelstein at adekar@comcast.net. ▲



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Robert, Mary Beth & Rachel Mandelkorn

On the other side of our doors, your spiritual home and family await.



HIGH HOLY DAY 5782 SCHEDULE

SELICHOT

Saturday, August 28th
8:00 p.m. Havdalah and Dessert Reception
9:00 p.m. Selichot Service

ROSH HASHANAH

Monday, September 6th
7:30 p.m. Evening Service

Tuesday, September 7th
10:00 a.m. Morning Service
10:30 a.m. Junior Congregation
12:30 p.m. Tashlich
Be our guest for lunch following Tashlich. Families welcome.

Wednesday, September 8th
10:00 a.m. Morning Service

Services will be in person and streamed on Zoom.

CEMETERY MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, September 12th
10:00 a.m. Temple Beth El
Garden of Memories

YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, September 15th
7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre

Thursday, September 16th

10:00 a.m. Morning Service
10:30 a.m. Junior Congregation
2:30 p.m. Exploring Book of Jonah (Zoom)
4:30 p.m. Musical Meditation
5:30 p.m. Yizkor
6:30 p.m. Neilah
Be our guest for Break the Fast following Neilah services. Families welcome.

SUKKOT

Thursday, September 23
12:30 p.m. Lunch and Learn in the Sukkah

SIMCHAT TORAH

Monday, September 27th
5:30 p.m. Simchat Torah Dinner
6:30 p.m. Celebration/Service

Tuesday, September 28th
10:00 a.m. Yizkor Service

Anyone who purchases guest High Holy Day ticket(s) is welcome to a complimentary membership for the rest of 2021.

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Aging Jewishly – What our traditions teach us about growing old

Handing out cash to the grandkids: Is there a better way?

By Rabbi Barbara Aiello

One, two, three, four and five! That's it! Five envelopes all ready for the grandkids." Ed smiled as he visualized each of the two boys and three girls, ranging in ages from 5 to 12 years, who make up the majority of his extended family. They are his children's children, and the envelopes represent the monetary gifts that Ed and his wife Linda will give to the grandkids when they arrive en masse for the Jewish holidays.

"We've been giving New Year's gifts for years," Linda said. "But this year I want to do something to make it more meaningful. It's not just the money. It's the 'Money Message' that I want to share as well."

Linda is referring to a structured program that combines gifts of cash with personal responsibility. The Money Message was developed and designed by financial expert and grandmother Marie Burns ("What Simple Stories Can Teach Grandchildren about Money," sixtyandme.com) whose grandchildren call her "Mimi." It's a simple and straightforward program that incorporates role modeling and storytelling



Rabbi Barbara Aiello

into money-based conversations so that her grandchildren can learn the basics regarding money. It's a process that "Mimi" defines as "Save, Spend, Give."

Marie Burns describes the grandparent-grandchild relationship this way. She says, "As grandmas, we often have teachable moments with our grandkids. Think of your own life or how often you have heard others say, 'I learned X from my grandma' or 'She was the one who taught me how to do Y' or 'I was really close to my grandma.'"

It was Burns' memory of her relationship with her own grandparent that led her to develop a similar bond with her grandchildren – one that would teach them about earning money and using it wisely.

Burns says, "In order to save, we have to earn money in the first place. Working to earn money is a great way to help children start practicing Save, Spend, Give."

Back to skeptical Ed, who is still somewhat reluctant. "So you're telling me that we don't just fill the envelopes with cash and hand them out?" Linda nodded a vigorous "yes" and described how "Mimi" Burns' Money Message program works. "This year," Linda said, "We'll start with the kids sitting with us in a circle and I'll begin. Ed, you and I will tell stories about how we earned money when we were kids. I'll talk

about how my Bubby paid me for dusting all the tchotchkies in her cabinet!"

Ed jumped in. "And I'll talk about how I mowed lawns and folded the laundry." Ed and Linda recalled how they each received an allowance that was contingent on chores they completed each week.

Burns suggests that the personal stories shared by grandparents form the opening for grandchildren to share their earning experiences and that often children are eager to brag about all the things they do to earn spending money.

"Earning to Save" is an important first step in the Money Message plan. Here Burns guides grandparents to continue the discussion about the things the grandchildren bought with the money they earned. Did a grandson save his earnings to buy a new scooter? Did a granddaughter work hard to earn the price of a concert ticket?

Burns emphasizes that step two, "Saving to Spend," is an integral part of the Money Message program. She says, "Delayed gratification is a huge life lesson learned when saving money. It reinforces and helps us practice learning to live within our means – a hard lesson our society today would do well to live by."

Finally, the essential third step is what Burns terms "Saving to Give." The benefit of earning money and having it available establishes the opportunity for our grandchildren to help others in need. From the days when we grandparents collected coins for the Sunday school tzedakah box, our Jewish traditions

of charitable giving and volunteering for public service have informed our lives – a Jewish value worth discussing with, and perpetuating through our grandchildren.

Based on the Money Message, program Linda and Ed are preparing to offer their New Year monetary gifts in a new way. Linda plans to open a grandkid-led discussion of earning money, prefaced by Linda and Ed's personal experiences. They expect that this sharing will lead to a discussion of saving for special purchases and improving the world through charitable giving.

Frustrated by mindless giving to children and grandchildren, a client once said to Marie Burns, "Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch!" Ed and Linda are trying a new approach.

"So we'll give out the envelopes," Ed said, "after we talk with the grandkids." Linda agreed. "We have the blessing of being able to give money to our grandchildren. Now they can learn the blessings of using that money wisely."

Note: For more information on Marie Burns' program, see The Tony Steuer Podcast at tonysteuer.com/the-tony-steuer-podcast-with-marie-burns-mind-money-and-motion/.

Rabbi Barbara Aiello served Aviva Senior Living in Sarasota as resident rabbi for 10 years. She now lives and works in Italy where she is rabbi of Italy's first Reconstructionist synagogue. You may reach her at RabbiBarbara.com.▲

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5:00 PM *Minhah, Yizkor & Ne'ilah*

Sukkah "Topping Off" 6:00 PM
Monday September 20

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

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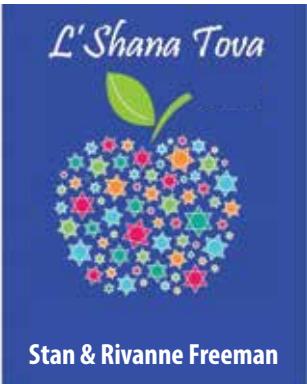
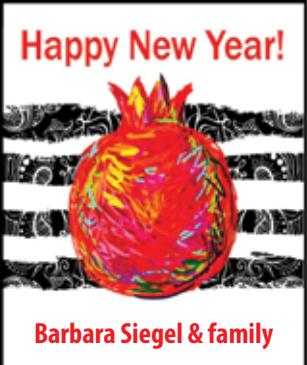
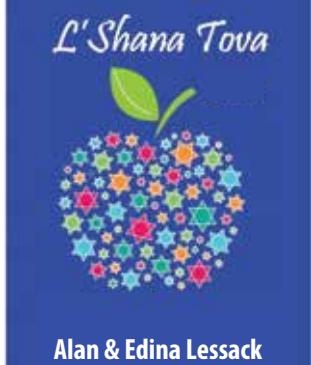
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May the sounds of the shofar signal peace and unity for Israel and good health and contentment in our lives.

Nannette Palumbo & family

A tough time for wine

By The Wine Whisperer

The year 2020 was not an easy one for the wine world. As if the imposition of tariffs and the rise in prices was not enough, we piled on the pandemic (which closed the tasting rooms in just about every winegrowing region) and the resurgence of catastrophic fires in California. The infernos of 2017 were bad enough, but the more recent ones were absolutely devastating.

And then there's climate change. It is absolutely evident that average temperatures are rising, and gradually the areas that are perfect for ripening wine grapes won't be anymore. In fact, some winegrowers in France have already started planting vineyards farther north than the traditional regions.

The combination of all these events has affected the makers of luxury wines. With prices rising, average wine drinkers and collectors are starting to look past the famous regions and vineyards of places like Bordeaux and Napa Valley. They're showing more interest in Spain, for example, and Chile, where makers of luxury wines have bought vineyards and created super-premium products. These include labels such as Catena Zapata. Their "Nicolas" bottling sells for around \$400.

Australia is in the running, too, with wines like Henschke Hill of Grace for north of \$800, and the heritage Penfold's Grange in the \$700 range. And don't count out Spain. The Vega Sicilia label, long a cult favorite, is attracting wider attention even though their "Unico" wine sells for around \$450 a pop.

Sales of South American wines have increased considerably in the last 10 years because of their quality/value ratio and ever-increasing point scores from influential critics. They've expanded distribution channels, too, so a wider variety of wines is more readily available.

New frontier wine regions have opened up as well. The remote Patagonia area of Argentina is producing a new selection of interesting wines. In fact, one wine from the area is called "Fin del Mundo"—the end of the world.

Prices of many of the finest wines from regions like Bordeaux and Burgundy have been going through the roof for a while. Collectors who have been sitting on older vintages now consider the bottles more of an investment instead of a casual drink to share with friends. For example, if you bought a

2000 Lafite Rothschild for \$200 when it came out in 2003, you can cash it in today for around \$1,000. I wish all my investments did that well.

The fires in California will have a damaging effect for years to come. First, many wineries have been burned to the ground or at least severely damaged. Smoke taint has also affected grapes that were on the vine when the fires hit, and it can't be detected until the wine is actually made. Third, hundreds of acres of vineyards are gone. Many smaller wineries will not survive.

So let's do a couple of things. Support the winemakers in areas that have been affected by fire, and look for delicious possibilities in places beyond the expected. Like these...

Sosie Pinot Noir Spring Hill Vineyard Sonoma Coast 2015 (\$43)

From the Petaluma district, this blend of three Pinot Noir clones is loaded with rich aromas and flavors of strawberry and raspberry. There's an Old World touch of warm earth and nicely balanced acidity throughout. WW 89-90

Siduri Pinot Noir Willamette Valley 2017 (\$30)

In case you're wondering, Siduri in literature is the bartender of the underworld. But wine-maker Adam Lee's Pinot Noirs are always otherworldly. The Oregon soils and climate give the wine aromas of cranberry and plum rather than strawberry. The acidity is bright, with a medium mouthfeel and very soft tannins. WW 91

Azendia Agricola Binomio Montepulciano d'Abruzzo Riserva 2015 (\$52)

This relatively recent brand (1998) has made its mark with a rustic, earthy style, ripe tannins and intense blackberry and strawberry aromas and flavors. A serious wine, capable of aging. WW 92

Ask the Wine Whisperer

Why is it so difficult to understand a wine label?

Mainly because each country has its own laws about the information that must be on the bottle. In Europe, the wines are labeled first by the region. In the so-called New World, labels carry the name of the grape. It's a lot easier to understand a label that says "Chardonnay" than one that reads "Puligny-Montrachet."

Jerry Greenfield is the Wine Whisperer, a wine author, educator and consultant. He is Creative Director of Greenfield Media & Marketing, and an adjunct professor in the wine program at Florida Gulf Coast University. His book, Ask the Wine Whisperer, is available on his website. Read his blog at www.winewhisperer.com.

The Start of the New Year

May the sounds of the shofar signal peace and unity for Israel and good health and contentment in our lives.

Lynn & Lory Kirby

Stars of David

By Nate Bloom, Contributing Columnist

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

Olympics Round-Up

The Tokyo Games featured 22 Jewish athletes from the Diaspora as well as the 90-member (Jewish) Israeli team. The individual Israeli medal winners are: **ARTEM DOLGOPYAT**, gold artistic gymnastics; **LINOY ASHRAM**, gold, rhythmic gymnastics; **AVISHAG SEMBERG**, bronze, taekwondo. The Israeli mixed judo team (men/women) won a bronze team medal. It's considered one medal, but all 11 team members get a medal to take home.

The Diaspora medal winners are: Australia: **JESSICA FOX**, gold, women's kayak slalom, and bronze, women's canoe slalom; Ukraine: **ELINA SVITOLINA**, bronze, women's tennis singles; United States: **SUE BIRD**, gold, women's basketball; **ALIX KLINEMAN**, gold, women's beach volleyball; **NICK ITKIN**, bronze, team foil (fencing).

Check out my article on the Olympics posted on the *Detroit Jewish News* website: thejewishnews.com/2021/08/03/meet-the-olympic-members-of-the-tribe/

You'll find a much bigger list of Diaspora athletes than in any other source. I give credit to *Jewish Sports Review*, a print publication that shared its research with me.

The Emmys

The Emmy Awards will be presented on Sunday, September 19 (CBS, 8:00 p.m.). Here are lists of Jewish nominees in just the acting and best series categories. Omitted are guest acting role nominees.

Lead actor, comedy series: **MICHAEL DOUGLAS**, 76, *The Kominsky Method*; Lead actress, comedy series: **TRACEE ELLIS**, 48, *Blackish*; Supporting actor, comedy series: **BRETT GOLDSTEIN**, 40, *Ted Lasso*; **PAUL REISER**, 65, *Kominsky*; Supporting actress, comedy series: **HANNAH EINBINDER**, 26, *Hacks*; Lead actor, limited series/TV movie: **DAVEED DIGGS**, 39, *Hamilton*.

All but two of the following people are "best series" Emmy nominees. I also note (see asterisk) two people who wrote books or films the series was based on. Comedy series: *Cobra Kai*, based on *Karate Kid* films written by **ROBERT MARK KAMEN***, 73; *Kai* was created for TV by **HAYDEN SCHLOSSBERG** and **JON HURWITZ**, both 43; *Emily in Paris*, created by **DARREN STAR**, 60; *The Kominsky Method*, created by **CHUCK LORRE**, 68.

Drama series: *Boys*, developed for TV by **ERIC KRIPKE**, 46; *Bridgerton*, based on novels by **JULIA QUINN***,

51; *The Crown*, created by **PETER MORGAN**, 58; *The Mandalorian*, created by **JON FAVREAU**, 54; *Pose*, co-created by **BRAD FALCHUK**, 50; *This Is Us*, created by **DAN FOGELMAN**, 45.

Limited series/TV movie: *The Queen's Gambit*, created by **A. SCOTT FRANK**, 60; *WandaVision*, created by **JAC SCHAEFFER**, 42.

TV Shows and Films

Ordinary Joe stars **JAMES WOLK**, 36, as a guy who faces a pivotal decision after college. The decision could lead to three different lifepaths and the series follows all three. **DAVID WARSHOWSKY**, 60, has a supporting role. (Premieres Monday, September 20 at 10:00 p.m. on NBC.)

Y: The Last Man posits a dystopian future in which all mammals with a Y chromosome are rendered sterile – except one man. The main cast includes **OLIVIA THIRLBY**, 34. (Premieres Monday, September 13 on FX.)

The Big Leap is a musical-comedy series based on a British reality show. The supporting cast includes **JON RUDNITSKY**, 31. (Premieres Monday, September 20 at 10:00 p.m. on Fox.)

Opening in theaters on Wednesday, September 29 is *Dear Evan Hansen*. It's based on the mega-hit Broadway musical of the same name. The title character is a troubled teen. **BEN PLATT**, 27, who created the stage role, plays Hansen in the film. Also, the music

and lyrics, as on-stage, are by the team of **BENJ PASEK**, 36, and **Justin Paul**. The screenplay is by **STEVEN LEV-ENSON**, 37, who created the "book" (story) for the stage musical.

Hit & Run is the first Israeli series created for Netflix. Most of the actors are Israeli and Jewish. The nine-episode series follows a tour guide (**LIOR RAZ**, 49) investigating the mysterious death of his wife. (Began streaming on August 6.)

Respect, a biopic about the late Aretha Franklin, opened in theaters on August 13. **MARC MARON**, 57, has a large supporting role as **JERRY WEXLER** (1917-2008), a legendary producer and record company owner who made Franklin a star. Wexler died in his Sarasota home.

Aretha's huge hit, "You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman," is sung in the film. The music is by **CAROLE KING**, now 79. The lyrics were by King's first husband, **GERRY GOFFIN** (1939-2014). It has always intrigued me that a man wrote the "Natural Woman" lyrics. ▲

Have an item you'd like to share? Need to reach the editor of L'CHAYIM?

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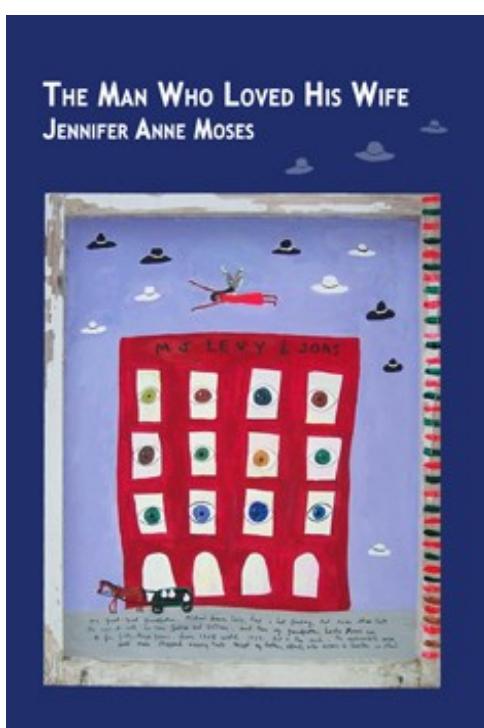
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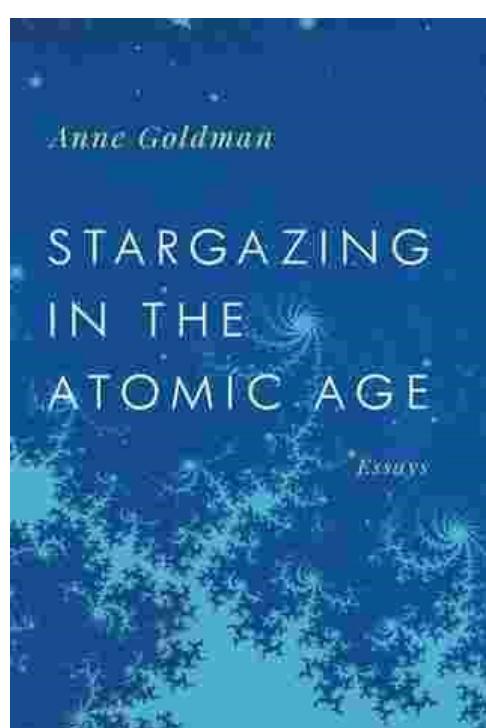
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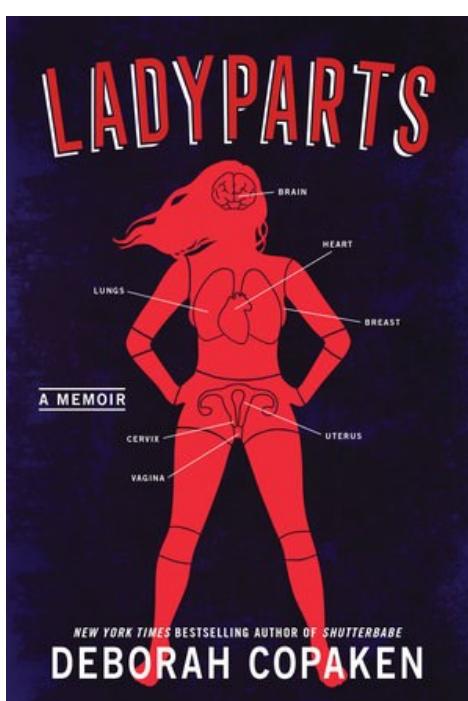
October 25th

Whether in Tel Aviv, suburban New Jersey, or the Deep South, the characters who populate the pages of **THE MAN WHO LOVED HIS WIFE** grapple with God, their loved ones, fate, death, hope, Hitler, transcendence, and the 4000 year old history of Judaism.



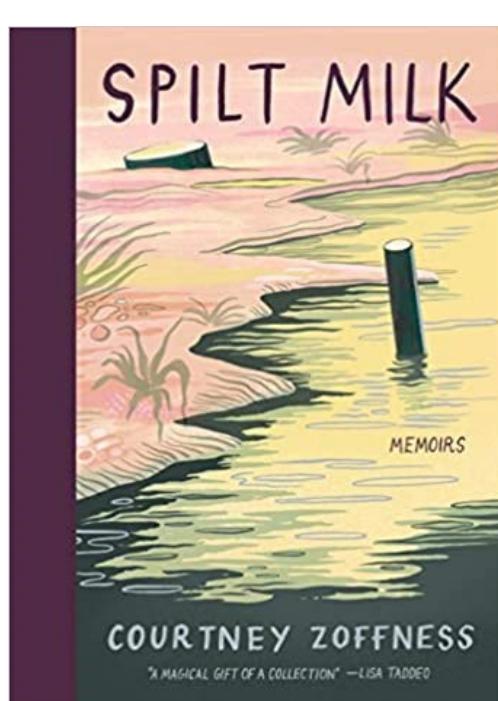
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During World War II, with apocalypse imminent, a group of well-known Jewish scientists and artists sidestepped despair by challenging themselves to solve some of the most difficult questions posed by our age.



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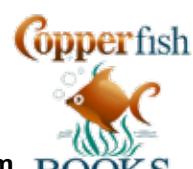
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Tefillah and Shirah: Two legs of the spiritual throne

By Arlene Stoltz

Recently, I have been reading about Rising Song Circles. These are groups of music lovers in Jewish communities who join together on a regular basis to study and sing all forms of Judaic music. Song Circles include *nigunim*, *nusach*, prayers and all forms of known Jewish music, but unlike a traditional choir, everyone may join regardless of musical background. The idea for the program was originated by Joey Weisenberg, whose mission is to bring people together in song. He believes that where there is song, there is prayer, and that Jewish tradition teaches that music unlocks the door to divine connection.

In his own words, recently published in *My Jewish Learning* online: "Music is the most... ephemeral of all art forms. We can't see music, we can't grasp it in our hands, but we can feel it working through us and the world. As such, music represents our connection to the divine, to each other, to everything. Music is... a prayer that opens up our imaginations to the divine source of all life."

Anyone who has ever sung in a temple choir has felt that connection. And in the congregation, one can sense the feeling as worshipers join in singing

the prayer liturgy.

So who is Joey Weisenberg? He is the founder and director of Hadar's Rising Song Institute, and the author of *Building Singing Communities* and *The Torah of Music*, which was the winner of a 2017 National Book Award. His library of over 500 videos, teaching topics such as "Leading Moving Communal Prayer," "Bringing Nigunim into the Community," "Shabbat and Festival Melodies," "Building Joyous Singing Communities" and "High Holiday Prayers and Chants," is only one of many ways Weisenberg demonstrates, through song, the Torah of prayer and music.

An interesting interpretation I read by Weisenberg talks about the idea that in *gematria* (the code used in biblical times for assigning a numerical value to a word according to its letters), the numerical value for *tefillah* (prayer) and *shirah* (song) are the same. His thought is that they are two legs of the spiritual throne, mutually supporting each other. He feels that where there is song, there is prayer and that music can open our hearts and minds to better understand what is around us.

Besides referring to the prophets who knew this, he talks about the role of the cantor, whom he describes as a "sacred musician who snatches the song from the place where prophets suckle." He speaks of melodies forming a divine ladder connecting earth with the heavens. In Hebrew,

the word *sulam* means both "ladder" and "musical scale."

The most famous story in the Torah concerns Jacob's ladder, in which the patriarch dreams of a ladder with angels going up and down. Maimonides thought the angels had one purpose, that of singing. We can think of Jacob's ladder as a musical scale with angels ascending and descending with our prayers.

When we sing, we can think of ourselves as experiencing a state of our best selves as we enter a state of spirituality. Weisenberg's idea is that music, although only a bunch of notes, can transform us if we let it.

Wishing you and yours a L'Shana Tova Tikatevu. Let the prayers and observance of these awesome days pave the way for a renewed spiritual life. This year, I look forward to sharing with you the stories of gifted musicians and their inspirational works. ▲

Arlene Stoltz, founder of the Sarasota Jewish Chorale, is a member of the Jewish Congregation of Venice. A retired educator from Rochester, New York, she has sung in choral groups for over 25 years and also sings in The Venice Chorale. Her interest in the preservation of Jewish music of all kinds has led to this series of articles on Jewish Folk Music in the Diaspora.

High Holiday services and events will take place on the following dates:

Erev Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 6

Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 7-8

Yom Kippur Eve: Sept. 15

Yom Kippur: Sept. 16



Please contact the area's temples for their specific schedules and more information.

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Rosh Hashanah

Monday, SEPTEMBER 6 at 7:00pm EDT - EVENING SERVICE

Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 7

10:00 am EDT - MORNING SERVICE

12:45pm EDT - TASHLICH SERVICE on a Sanibel beach

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 15 at 7:00pm EDT - KOL NIDRE

Thursday, SEPTEMBER 16

10:00 am EDT - MORNING SERVICE

Noon EDT - CONGREGANTS' HOUR

3pm EDT - AFTERNOON DISCUSSION OF JONAH

3:45pm EDT - MUSICAL INTERLUDE

4:30pm EDT - YIZKHOR and NEILAH SERVICE

Services will be held in Fellowship Hall of the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ.

They also can be joined virtually via Zoom. Details to follow in emails to congregants.

We welcome all to join us -- please email batyamsanibel@gmail.com for information.

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Traditional honey cake goes modern – recipe by Chef Dalia

A few days ago, someone emailed me asking me if I had a modern honey cake recipe for Rosh Hashanah. Well, you don't need to ask me twice. Honey cake is frequently served during Rosh Hashanah because honey symbolizes wishes for "sweet" things to come. And for me, more important than the appetizer or main course, a Rosh Hashanah meal is defined by dessert. For a dinner where sweetness is the prevailing theme, possibly determining the entire tone of the upcoming year, dessert is the most important course of all. And forever in my family, that most important dessert has been honey cake. I have always loved honey cakes, and not just for the flavor. I have wonderful memories of going to my safta (Israeli word for grandmother) a day before Rosh Hashanah, sitting in her kitchen and having a slice of honey cake with a cup of tea.

Once I married and moved far

from Israel, I found myself wanting to make my grandmother's honey cake for Rosh Hashanah. I called her to ask for the recipe. She gave it to me over the phone, making sure to tell me everything I needed to know. She even made sure our pans were the same size so my honey cake could be identical to hers.

I wrote down everything she told me. When it came to the ingredients, she instructed me to use "a glass of this, a glass of that..." So that's what I wrote down, and that's exactly what I did. When all was said and done, my cake didn't look or taste anything like my grandmother's had. So to make me happy, my grandmother sent me a honey cake every Rosh Hashanah. The cake was dark, sticky and sweet. It carried in it every good wish and every happy memory she could send from Israel. It was always exciting to receive the package. The cake would sit on our counter until Rosh Hashanah

dinner, promising future sweetness, future happiness and joy. And when we would eat it with our guests, we knew our family in Israel was with us as well.

The next time I visited Israel, I went to see my safta to find out how she makes my favorite honey cake. It didn't take time to understand what went wrong with my cake. She uses an old jam jar to measure the ingredients.

"Is that your glass? Is that what you use as a measuring cup?" My grandmother is originally from Spain, and Hebrew, the language in which we speak to each other, is not her mother tongue. I had assumed her one "glass" was one cup. She didn't own a measuring cup. I found out the jam jar was equivalent to $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups. I figured out that this was my problem! On my next visit to her house, I brought her a gift – a measuring cup.

Through the years, when I make honey cake, I always think of her. For this year's celebration, I have renovated her traditional honey cake, giving it a modern spin. I modernized the classic honey cake to be baked in a Bundt pan. Honey cakes are often presented as simple loaves, but a round pan makes the cake more festive and more symbolic. Similar to shaping challah into a circle at Rosh Hashanah, baking a round honey cake signifies the continuation of life, which is particularly appropriate for the Jewish New Year holiday.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and sweet Rosh Hashanah!

Ingredients:

For the dough

- 3½ cups bread flour (plus more if needed)
- 2 tablespoon dry yeast
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon cocoa
- ¾ cup water
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup sugar
- 6 tablespoons melted Butter
- 1 large egg, at room temperature

For the stuffing

- 1 cup finely chopped pistachios
- 1 cup finely chopped blanched almonds
- ¼ cup honey
- ¼ cup soft butter

For the lemon honey syrup

- 12 tablespoons honey
- 3 tablespoons water
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

For decoration

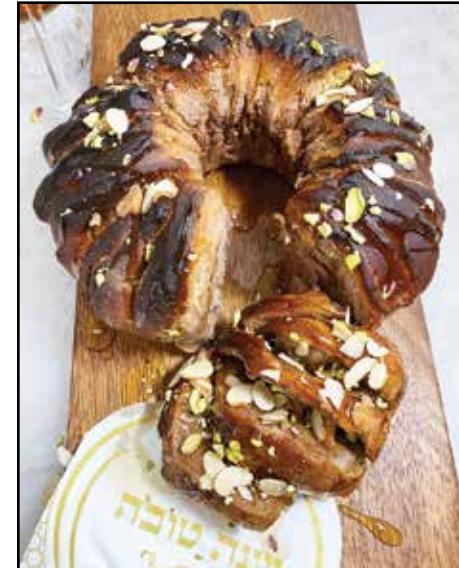
- A handful of chopped roasted pistachios and almonds
- In the bowl of a stand mixer combine the water, yeast and sugar. Let it sit for 10 minutes.
- Add honey, egg, butter, and slowly add the flour, cocoa, cinnamon and salt. Using the dough hook, mix until the flour is completely incorporated for about 4-5 minutes. (If the dough seems sticky, add ¼ cup of flour.) Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and let it sit at room temperature for 2 hours.
- Prepare the stuffing: Mix pista-



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

chos, almonds and honey in a bowl. Gradually add butter and mix until you get a nutty spread with a thick but not hard texture, which will be convenient to spread on the dough.

- Transfer the dough to a work surface and cut into 3 equal pieces. Working with 1 dough piece at a time, roll into a large rectangle (roughly 14x10 inches) on a lightly floured surface. Spread a generous layer of the filling evenly over the dough, and then cut lengthwise into 3 strips. Cut the strips cross-wise into 4 strips each, making 12 squares. Stack all 12 dough squares, one on top of the other.



Repeat with remaining 2 dough pieces and remaining filling. Arrange stacks in a lightly buttered tube pan, standing up like little books, allowing gaps between dough pieces.

- Cover the pan with plastic wrap, and let it rise until the dough almost reaches the top, for about 45 minutes.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Bake for 35 minutes until cakes are golden and firm.
- Prepare the syrup: In a small saucepan, bring all the ingredients to a boil, mix and remove from the heat.
- For serving: When the cake comes out of the oven, use a tablespoon and pour the hot syrup on top of the cake. Sprinkle with pistachio and almond crumbs, cool slightly and serve. ▲

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Babi Yar: the fatal ravine

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

Babi Yar, also spelled Babiy Yar or Baby Yar, is the name given to a large ravine on the northern edge of Kiev in Ukraine. Eighty years ago this month, across the two days of September 29-30, 1941, it was where SS and German police divisions murdered a large segment of the Jewish population of Kiev.

As captive Jews from the city moved into the ravine, *Einsatzgruppen* units from *Sonderkommando 4a* under SS-Standartenführer Paul Blobel shot them in small groups. According to reports back to headquarters, 33,771 Jews were massacred in this two-day period. This was one of the largest mass killings at an individual location during World War II.

Before the German Army invaded Kiev on September 19, 1941, some 160,000 Jews, about 20% of the city's population, lived in Kiev. Around 100,000 of them fled before the assault on the city, and during the ensuing battle, Axis forces killed or captured more than 600,000 Soviet soldiers, most of whom never returned alive. Kiev was incorporated into *Reichskommissariat Ukraine*, controlled by fanatical East Prussian Nazi district leader Erich Koch.

Immediately following the German takeover, two big explosions, suppos-

edly detonated by Soviet military engineers or the NKVD, destroyed German field headquarters and much of central Kiev. The Germans used this incident as a convenient justification to murder Kiev's remaining 60,000 Jews, comprising women, children, the old and the sick.

After discussions between Blobel, SS-Brigadeführer Otto Rasch and Major General Kurt Eberhard, the German field commander in Kiev, Eberhard ordered Kiev's Jews to gather with their possessions – including money, valuables and warm clothing – near the Jewish cemetery no later than 7:00 a.m. on Monday, September 29. They were told they would be relocated, and that disobedience would be punished by death. The assembled Jews were then marched to the ravine at Babi Yar. There, following standard procedure used by *Einsatzgruppen* since late June 1941, SS and police forced the Jews to strip, dispossessed them of their belongings, and shot them into the ravine in groups of 30 to 40 people.

The Jews, in their thousands, were steered into barbed-wire areas at the top of the ravine, which were secured by Ukrainian allies. There they undressed, were beaten and escorted in groups down the gorge. The initial groups were forced to lie on the ground, face down, and were killed by German machine guns. The bullet-riddled bodies were covered thinly with earth, the next group was ordered to lie on top of them, and

the process was repeated. The hasty murder of so many people within two days did not assure that all the victims had died, even though shots continued to be fired into bodies. A few managed to survive, however, and though gravely wounded, they managed to crawl from under the corpses and seek a hiding place.

In the months following the massacre, German authorities stationed at Kiev sporadically reused the ravine as a killing site. They murdered several thousand more Jews, as well as an untold number of non-Jews including Roma, communist officials, Soviet prisoners of war and Soviet civilians. It is estimated that over the entire period in which German forces occupied Kiev, some 100,000 people were murdered at Babi Yar.

In July 1943, after Soviet forces seized the military initiative, Germany launched *Aktion 1005* to dispose of evidence of their crimes in the Soviet Union. Blobel, who had been discharged from his duties as commander of *Sonderkommando 4a* in early 1942 and transferred to Berlin, returned to Kiev, where he supervised works to eliminate evidence of the murders at Babi Yar. Throughout August and September 1943, his men and enslaved concentration camp prisoners reopened the mass grave, crushed bones and burned the remains of the dead. When the concealment work was done, almost all the prisoners were killed. However, on September 29, 1943 – two years to the day of the massacre – some 25 managed to escape under cover of darkness. Fifteen survived to tell what they had seen. Other evidence of the massacres remained, discovered by Soviet forces after the liberation of Kiev in November 1943.

The Babi Yar Massacre of late September 1941 was one of the largest mass killings at any single location during World War II. The horrendous numbers killed were surpassed only by the massacre in October 1941 of 50,000 Jews at Odessa by Romanian (and some German) units, and by the two-day *Aktion Erntefest* (Operation Harvest Festival) in early November 1943, which claimed 42,000 - 43,000 Jewish victims.

More than any other incident, the massacres at Babi Yar have come to symbolize a characteristic of the Holocaust – mass shooting, or “the Holocaust by bullets.”

In 1959, novelist Viktor Nekrasov appealed in the pages of *Literaturnaya Gazeta* for a memorial to be established at Babi Yar. Poet Yevgeni Yevtushenko followed this up with a famous poem, “Babi Yar,” in the same journal on September 19, 1961. The poem was an open attack upon antisemitism and drew attention to Jewish martyrdom.

Composer Dmitri Shostakovich then set Yevtushenko's lines to music in his 13th Symphony, performed for the first time in December 1962. Yevtushenko was publicly denounced by Premier Nikita Khrushchev in *Pravda* on March 8, 1963, but the details of the massacre would not remain censored. Details resurfaced in 1966 in a novel focusing on Babi Yar written by Anatoly Kuznetsov.

After the breakup of the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian government acknowledged the specifically Jewish nature of the site and an appropriate rededication was held.▲

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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BRIEFS



NEW ISRAELI BUDGET PROMISES OVER \$9 BILLION FOR ARAB SECTOR

On August 2, the Israeli Cabinet approved a draft state budget containing \$9.19 billion intended for Israel's minorities. \$6.7 billion is dedicated to the next five-year plan for the Arab sector, compared with \$3.3 billion in the last five-year plan approved in 2016. In addition, \$780 million will be directed at fighting crime and violence in the Arab sector, as Israeli Arab politicians have sought. The Bedouin population will receive \$1.6 billion, while \$930 million will be directed at the Druze and Circassian minorities.

Dr. Salim Brake, an expert on Arab society in Israel who teaches at the Open University, said, "This plan is unprecedented, and if it is realized, it will make a major difference for the Arab population."

The new plan is intended to close the gaps in education, employment and financial prosperity. (Daniel Sonnenfeld, *Media Line*)

AN OLYMPIC TRUCE

As I was flipping through the various Olympic channels, my eye caught the blue and white stripes of the Israeli flag

alongside the bright green image of the Saudi Arabian flag. As I watched Israeli athlete Raz Hershko compete against Saudi athlete Tahani Al-Qahtani in judo, I was struck by the significance of the match as these two powerful young women put aside any adverse politics.

Historically, sports have consistently bridged people of different nationalities, religions, sexes and colors. To this day, sports are used to bring together Israeli and Arab children in an open, neutral and friendly environment. Sports have a way of stripping down biased tendencies and allowing people to connect on a basic person-to-person level.

The Abraham Accords marked the beginning of a warm peace between two nationalities. Across the Middle East, brave individuals have decided that it is time to start building bridges and connect with people from different religions, countries and races. (Hanna Gerber, *Arab News - Saudi Arabia*)

THE IDF RESCUE UNIT FOUND MOST OF THE SURFSIDE DISASTER VICTIMS

Lt.-Col. Golan Vach, commander of the Israel Defense Forces National Rescue Unit, said he personally found 20 vic-

tims from the Surfside, Florida, condo collapse and that his team recovered 81 of the nearly 100 victims. He knew where to look because he studied photographs of the missing, learned about their possessions, learned about their habits and even knew in which room each likely would have been during the collapse. While U.S. authorities said there were 159 missing, his team met with the families and determined there were 98.

Using expertise developed from responder missions in wars and catastrophic events in Israel and around the world, the team developed a 3-dimensional computer model to determine where each room was located both before and after the collapse. That way, rescuers could search with purpose. (Wendy Rhodes, *Palm Beach Post*)

ISRAEL TO OPEN NEW HAIFA PORT IN SEPTEMBER

Israel's new Gulf Port of Haifa will begin operations on September 1 after 15 years of construction.

"The opening of the Gulf port will revolutionize the entire economy. It is the newest port in the world, with the latest in port technology," said Yitzhak Blumenthal, CEO of the Israel Ports Company.

Another new port in Ashdod is expected to be completed later this year. The openings come at a time when Israel's ports have been severely backed up. (Zev Stub, *Jerusalem Post*)

MISS UNIVERSE PAGEANT TO BE HELD IN ISRAEL FOR FIRST TIME

For the first time in its history, the Miss Universe beauty pageant will be held in Israel. The international contest will take place in the southern resort of Eilat in December, bringing to the sunny city thousands of people in delegations from 100 countries.

The pageant, which will be marking its 70th anniversary, will take over the city for a period of about three weeks starting in November, and will include events such as a national costume show, red carpets, charity events, semifinals and the final contest.

The annual contest will air in nearly 160 territories across the world, drawing an estimated 1.3 billion viewers following the pageant in broadcast, print and social media.

"We in Israel are delighted to host the 70th anniversary celebrations of the iconic Miss Universe pageant. Israel is a beautiful land of creativity and

continued on next page

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Monday, September 6 - 7:30 pm

Tuesday, September 7 - 10:00 am

Yom Kippur Services

Kol Nidre, Wednesday, September 15 - 7:30 pm

Yom Kippur Services Thursday, September 16

Morning Service 10:am

Mincha - 3:30 pm

Yizkor Memorial approximately 4:30 pm



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BRIEFS

continued from previous page

innovation, and we have successfully faced the Covid-19 crisis head on. Therefore, today we are among the first countries to host an international event — the unifying Miss Universe,” said Israeli Tourism Minister Yoel Razvozov.

“What a great opportunity: An event celebrating women’s empowerment, optimism, tolerance and desire for excellence, that crosses every geographical and national border. I wish all participants good health and good luck, and I look forward to seeing you all soon,” he added.

Like other international events that were postponed due to the coronavirus

crisis, the Miss Universe 2020 pageant was also held a year late, in May 2021. The event took place in Florida, where Andrea Meza of Mexico won the coveted title. The first and last time an Israeli competitor won the contest was in 1976, when Rina Mor was crowned. (Naama Barak, ISRAEL21c)

AS GLOBAL DEMAND FOR MICROCHIPS SURGES, TECH GIANTS EXPAND OPERATIONS IN ISRAEL

Multinational giants like Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Intel and Nvidia are all setting up or expanding their chip design operations in Israel, driven by a shift toward digitalization compounded by a global shortage of chips.

Semiconductor chips are used for everything from phones and laptops

to cars and cloud computing, making them the engine of the tech industry.

Israel's prowess is mostly in the design of chips, said David Perlmutter, a former senior executive at Intel. “R&D development of a chip is likely the most complicated task in the world. The level of complexity is huge, and these are projects of hundreds of people who use computing tools to program them and giant computers to do simulations.” (Shoshanna Solomon, *Times of Israel*)

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE CONDEMNS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL, PALESTINIANS

The American Jewish Committee condemned a resolution recently adopted 462-78 with 18 abstentions at a meeting of the United Church of Christ.

The resolution refers to Israel's “apartheid system of laws and legal procedures” and demands an end to U.S. military aid to Israel.

The AJC said the measure “demonizes Israel, fails to offer a credible path to Israeli-Palestinian peace and undermines advances in Christian-Jewish relations.”

“It pretends there aren't two parties to the conflict,” said Rabbi Noam Marams, AJC's Director of Interreligious and Intergroup Relations. “That is not the way to get to peace.” (Yonat Shimron, Religion News Service - *Washington Post*)

ISRAEL CONDEMNS BEN & JERRY'S BOYCOTT DECISION

Ben & Jerry's current Israeli distributor condemned the ice cream company's decision to drop its licensing agreement. “Ben & Jerry's Internation-

al decided not to renew their agreement with us in a year and a half, after we refused their demand to stop distribution throughout Israel. We urge the Israeli government and consumers – don't let them boycott Israel. Keep ice cream out of politics.”

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said, “Ben & Jerry's decided to brand itself as anti-Israel ice cream. This is a moral mistake and I believe it will turn out to be a business mistake as well. The boycott against Israel... reflects that they have totally lost their way.”

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid called the decision “a disgraceful capitulation to antisemitism, to BDS, to all that is evil in the anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish discourse.” Lapid said he would ask the over 30 U.S. states with anti-BDS laws to implement them against Ben & Jerry's in retaliation. The laws require states to divest from companies that boycott Israel. (*Times of Israel*)

HOW BEN & JERRY'S ISRAEL BOYCOTT HAS UNITED MANY JEWS

Some issues simply go too far, and Ben & Jerry's decision to stop selling its ice cream in “Occupied Palestinian Territories” was one of those. Unlike previous companies subjected to boycotts, Ben & Jerry's makes its ice cream inside Israel. It doesn't even operate any ice cream stores over the 1967 lines. But by targeting sales to the West Bank rather than products made there, Ben & Jerry's is setting an alarming precedent.

As reported in *The Jerusalem Post*, the boycott criteria already set by Ben & Jerry's “would make any Israeli or foreign company that helps stock a [West Bank] supermarket with those products susceptible to boycotts.” Regardless of where one sits on the

continued on page 24

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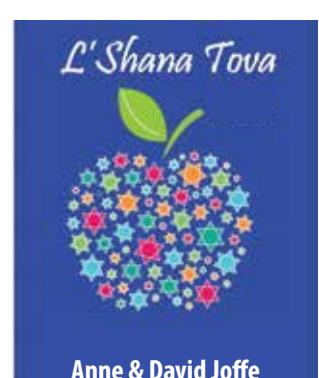
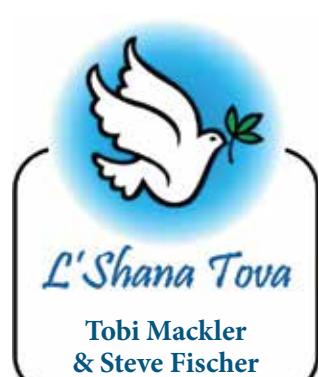
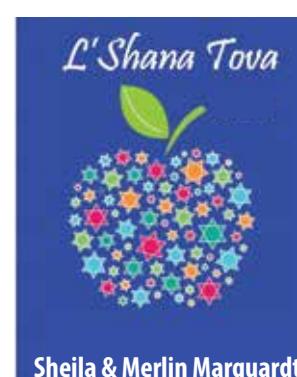
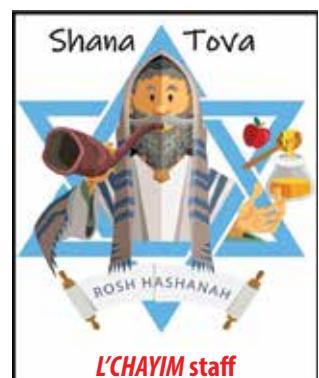
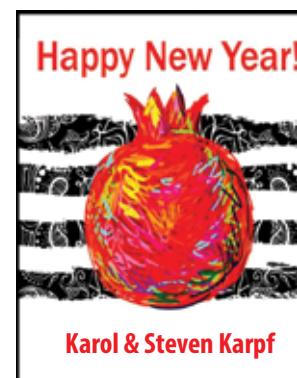
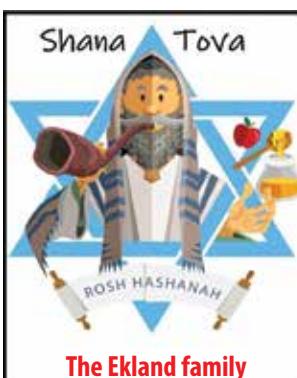
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Modern Zionism and its positive impact on many aspects of our lives

The time has come to show the world what Zionism looks like. That Zionism comes in all colors, shapes and sizes. That it's inclusive, diverse, beautiful, respectful. That it builds bridges. That it's about freedom: freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom from preconceived notions. That Zionism supports Israel,

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— all meant to facilitate a dialogue and expose the beautiful and diverse facets of modern Zionism and its positive impact on many aspects of our lives.

Guests participating in these discussions will include Zionist historian and activist Gil Troy, human rights attorney Arsen Ostrovsky, and Zionist activist and author of the Almost Jewish blog,

Virag Gulyas. Panels will explore topics, including "Can You be Progressive and be a Zionist?" and the "Textures of the Jewish World."

The next event, titled "Israel: Yes, You Can Be a Progressive Zionist!," takes place on Tuesday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit jnf.org/ZionismConversations.▲

Space Florida, Israel Innovation Authority announce eighth-round winners of innovation partner funding

Exploration Park, Fla., and Jerusalem, Israel (July 12, 2021) – Space Florida, the aerospace and spaceport development authority for the State of Florida, and the Israel Innovation Authority, an independent and impartial statutory public entity that operates for the benefit of the Israeli innovation ecosystem and Israeli economy as a whole, are pleased to announce the eighth-round winners of industrial research and development funding tied to the Space Florida-Israel Innovation Partnership Program.

In October 2013, Florida and Israel established a \$2 million recurring joint fund to support research, development and commercialization of aerospace and technology projects that benefit both Israel and Florida. For this Call for Projects, 20 joint proposals were submitted by teams of for-profit companies in Florida and Israel. Four teams have been selected for this eighth round of awards.

"Congratulations to the winning partnerships in this latest Call for Projects in the Florida-Israel Innovation Partnership," said Lt. Governor Jeanette Nuñez. "Florida's space industry

is rich in innovation, research and development, and collaborations like the program with Israel help to ensure a bright future in space. I look forward to seeing the results from this year's winning companies."

"The partnership between Florida and Israel continues to yield innovative results and contribute to our state's thriving aerospace industry," said Space Florida President and CEO Frank DiBello. "Space Florida congratulates the winners of this Eighth Call for Projects and looks forward to the successes of each company as well as continuing the strong relationship we have with the Israel Innovation Authority in growing research and development within the aerospace sector."

"Since its inception in 2013, the Israel-Florida collaboration on space related technologies has managed to produce great projects that could truly make a difference in the aerospace sector," said Ami Appelbaum, Chairman, Israel Innovation Authority. "This year we were excited to note an increase in the number of applications submitted compared to last year, as well as

the noteworthy high quality of those projects. We strongly believe that the partnership between Florida and Israel, and the success of this collaboration between companies from both countries will further strengthen the ties between the two countries and economies. We wish much success to the winning teams and companies, and look forward to the amazing changes they will make on our world and beyond."

Additionally, Space Florida and the Israel Innovation Authority would like to thank Enterprise Florida's Israel Office for its collaboration and partnership in this Call for Projects.

The next joint call for applications is expected to be released in September 2021. Florida-based companies interested in more information can visit spaceflorida.gov, while Israel-based companies can visit innovationisrael.org.il.

About Space Florida

Space Florida was created to strengthen Florida's position as the global leader in aerospace research, investment, exploration and commerce. As Florida's aerospace and spaceport development

authority, it is committed to attracting and expanding the next generation of space industry businesses. With its highly trained workforce, proven infrastructure and unparalleled record of achievement, Florida is the ideal location for aerospace businesses to thrive – and Space Florida is the perfect partner to help them succeed.

About the Israel Innovation Authority

The Israel Innovation Authority, an independent publicly funded agency, was created to provide a variety of practical tools and funding platforms aimed at effectively addressing the dynamic and changing needs of the local and international innovation ecosystems. This includes early-stage entrepreneurs, mature companies developing new products or manufacturing processes, academic groups seeking to transfer their ideas to the market, global corporations interested in collaborating with Israeli technology, Israeli companies seeking new markets abroad, and traditional factories and plants seeking to incorporate innovative and advanced manufacturing into their businesses.▲

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BRIEFS

continued from page 22

political spectrum, Ben & Jerry's has crossed a line that repulses much of the mainstream Jewish community.

We've seen this singling out of Israel over and over by groups that ignore genocides and mass murders to go after the world's only Jewish state. When a beloved brand joins the anti-Israel parade so loudly and forcefully, it concentrates the mind about the unfair and discriminatory targeting of Israel. (David Suissa, *Los Angeles Jewish Journal*)

ISRAEL SHIFTS TO STANDOFF WEAPONS IN SYRIA AS RUSSIA RESTRICTS ITS FREEDOM OF ACTION

Defense sources say the Israeli military is planning to change its tactics in Syria to employ long-range standoff munitions as opposed to air strikes on Iran-linked military targets, following a new Russian policy to use its higher-end air defense systems capable of shooting down Israeli jets over Syrian airspace.

Rear Adm. Vadim Kulit said in a TV interview that Russian forces assisted the Syrians in intercepting four missiles launched by Israeli F-16s – the first time Russian assistance was given to counter Israeli military operations. Kulit said a Russian SA-17 was used, a medium-range advanced defense missile complex used by the Russian Army. The system is operated directly by the Russian military. Israeli sources confirmed that the SA-17 was used for the first time against Israeli missiles, raising fears that Israeli pilots could be targeted as well.

For the majority of the conflict in Syria, Israel and Russia have maintained a hotline that allowed the Israeli military to alert Russian forces of incoming strikes. Generally, sources say, Russia was given two to three minutes of warning in order to remove their personnel in the area, and in some cases, missions were aborted over fears of striking Russian forces. However, Rus-

sian officials now say the deconfliction line no longer exists, while Israeli sources say communications through the line have effectively stopped.

"Russia has decided to end the Israeli freedom of action over Syria," said Dr. Mordechai Kedar, a senior Israeli expert. Moscow wants to portray Syria as a functioning country. "The frequent Israeli air strikes on targets in Syria do not help to build the desired image." (Arie Egozi, *Breaking Defense*)

RAF IN DRONE WARFARE EXERCISE IN ISRAEL: "A SIGN OF CHANGE AFTER BREXIT"

The Royal Air Force has taken part in the first Western military exercise on drone warfare, held in Israel, where it trained on Hermes 450 drones, simulating joint operations with fighter jets and attack helicopters, together with teams from the U.S., France, Germany and Italy. For the Israelis, it was an opportunity to show their counterparts how they have been using unmanned aerial vehicles in combat for nearly 50 years.

Brig.-Gen. Amir Lazar, commander of the Israel Air Force Air Division, said, "All the countries participating in this exercise have had combat experience with drones over the last couple of decades, in Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries. But they usually use a drone operating at long range." Gaza and other battlefields over which Israel uses drones are much closer to its borders, sometimes only a few minutes' flight time away, and the Israeli doctrine is to use at least two drones in tandem to sweep potential targets and to ensure before an airstrike that the correct target has been identified.

Over recent years, close ties between the Israeli and British armed forces have come out in the open. Last month, a joint exercise involving the British, Israeli and U.S. air forces was held in Israel's Negev Desert, with each nation using its F-35 stealth fighters. A British officer involved in the exercise said, "It's also a sign of how Britain's attitude toward some of its strategic alliances is changing after Brexit." (Anshel Pfeffer, *The Times - UK*)

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BRIEFS

continued from previous page

ONE YEAR INTO ABRAHAM ACCORDS, ISRAEL'S TRADE WITH UAE TOPS \$570 MILLION

A year into the Abraham Accords, \$570 million in business has been done between Israel and the UAE, according to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics.

During 2020 and the first six months of 2021, Israel exported \$197 million in goods and services to the UAE and imported \$372 million.

Dorian Barak, co-founder of the UAE-Israel Business Council, said, "The UAE is the business capital of the entire region. Every country has a presence there."

"Israelis are always looking for ways to do business in South Asia, East Africa, India and Bangladesh. These are markets with two billion people, and you can't work with them from Tel Aviv."

"The UAE is the place where everyone congregates to do business, and Israel has finally been admitted to that club." (Zev Stub, *Jerusalem Post*)

ISRAEL LAUDS RESTORATION OF TIES WITH MOROCCO

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid recently told Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita, "Jews have lived in Morocco for almost two thousand years....Through most of the periods, the Jews lived here in peace. There was a deep friendship between them and their Moroccan neighbors....Today we are restoring peace, restoring the friendship."

"Reality is a choice we make. For too many years we have let other peo-

ple choose for us the way of war. Today we take our destiny into our own hands and choose the path of peace....In the Holy Koran it is written: 'If (they) lean towards peace, you too incline to it.' (Sura 8, verse 61) Hostility and hatred are created by human beings, and human beings can also decide to bring them to an end." (Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

ISRAELI MACHINES THAT PRODUCE WATER FROM AIR PLACED IN UAE PARKS, BEACHES

In a pilot program by the Abu Dhabi Municipality, 15 medium-size Watergen water-from-air machines were installed in parks and beaches in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and the Abu Dhabi emirate's Western Region in May. Seven hundred additional machines have been ordered, of which 500 are the newly released Genny home device.

Watergen and Abu Dhabi-based Al Dahra Holding signed an agreement in November 2020 to establish a permanent center in Abu Dhabi for manufacturing and distribution of equipment to produce drinking and irrigation water for the entire Middle East and Africa.

"Every household in the UAE will have an air-to-water generating machine within the next two years," said Watergen CEO Michael Mirilashvili. (Michal Michelle Divon, *Khaleej Times - UAE*)

THE IDF AT THE FOREFRONT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Maj. M., a senior officer in the IDF's C4I Directorate (command, control, communications, computers and intelligence), said that since 2005, the digital revolution has "allowed us to acquire a lot more intelligence with a lot more velocity," enabling the IDF to

use artificial intelligence (AI) to significantly increase its target bank.

In May, the IDF relied heavily on AI to gather targets belonging to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad and strike them. "For the first time, a multidisciplinary center was created that produces hundreds of targets relevant to developments in the fighting, allowing the military to continue to fight as long as it needs to with more and more new targets," a senior officer said.

In the north opposite Hezbollah, the IDF's target bank in the Northern Command is 20 times larger than in the 2006 war, with thousands of targets ready to be attacked, including headquarters, strategic assets and weapons storehouses.

Dr. Irit Idan, executive VP for R&D for Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, explained how AI is used in the Windbreaker tank defense system: "A rocket is launched toward a tank from a short distance and the system needs to identify the launch, what kind

of rocket was launched, and destroy it within a few seconds. No human brain can do that in the few seconds that you have between the launch and the hit." (Anna Ahronheim, *Jerusalem Post*)

HOW ANTI-ZIONISM AND ANTISEMITISM INTERSECT

We are witnessing a pattern of hostility toward Jews around the world directly tied to hatred toward Israel. The Anti-Defamation League stated that the May conflict with Gaza saw a 75% spike in antisemitic incidents in the U.S. — a staggering number considering the already large increase in antisemitism over the last few years.

What we have experienced is a paradigm shift, the culmination of a confluence of movements and events that have nurtured, encouraged and seemingly legitimized anti-Zionism — and provided a license to discriminate against and target Jews for their possible association with the Jewish state.

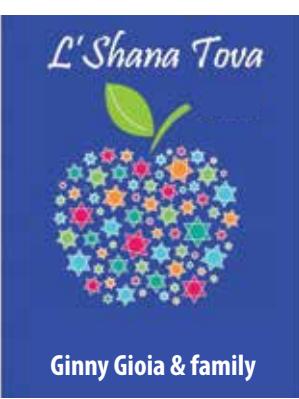
As violence and hate crimes against

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May the New Year bring peace for Israel and good health for all of us

Israel opens dazzling new Nanoscience and Art Museum

Who says science and art don't mix? Bar-Ilan University opens unique museum that aims to expose visitors to the vast research possibilities in the natural sciences.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, ISRAEL21c.org, July 8, 2021

How do 150,000 stretchy rubber bands depict the healing process of damaged neurons? How do 16 electric violin players pinpoint the moment that synchrony transitions to chaos?

These and other works at Israel's newest museum are brilliant experiments in what happens when scientists and artists put their talents together.

The one-of-a-kind Joseph Fetter Nanoscience and Art Museum opened at Bar-Ilan University's Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA) on July 8.

Displayed in spaces throughout five of the nine floors in BINA's three-building complex, the artworks give visitors a dynamic view of the microscopic magic happening in the in-

stitute's 71 biology, physics, chemistry, engineering and computer science labs.

The inaugural exhibit, "New Languages," comprises 13 works co-created over three years.

A wooden arch created by Mahmood Kaiss with an arabesque motif was inspired by nanocrystal structures researched in the Light Matters Lab of Prof. Adi Salomon.



Mahmood Kaiss' wooden arch inspired by nanocrystal structures (photo by Sharon Goldman)

A multiscreen work by sound artist Elad Shniderman and Prof. Moti Friedman uses 16 violinists to illustrate a new scientific discovery about patterns



Elad Shniderman's multiscreen work on chaos theory (photo by Michael Amar)

in the threshold between synchronization and chaos.

Vardi Bobrow's rubber-band sculpture provides a visualization of Prof. Orit Shefi's discovery of how defective neurons stretch and grow in the process of regeneration.



"Stretching Boundaries" by Vardi Bobrow (photo by Michael Amar)

"We ventured on a journey to conceptually and technically distant worlds, which are at the same time very close to the essence of our being," says curator Tal Yizrael.

"In so doing, we opened a window to the wonderland of the invisible. Like art, nanoscience delves deep into substances and essence, allowing us to discover new phenomena and universes."

Beyond great science

Caroline Maxwell used saltwater from the Dead Sea and the Great Salt Lake

in Utah, crystallized over several years through nanometric processes, to create a work based on Gili Taguri-Cohen's research into crystalline formations.

Eli Levy created a track for a water drop that moves on hydrophobic surfaces produced in the lab of Prof. Shlomo Margel.

It's an allegory, Levy says, to the journeys undertaken by the human soul.

Ela Goldman translated Prof. Dror Fixler's experiments using gold nanoparticles as disease detectives in the human body into a *sevivon* – spinning top – showing how molecules emit light and then come crashing down when they run out of power.

Celebrating great science

Fixler, BINA's current director, tells ISRAEL21c he is delighted by the museum's potential to take scientific innovations out of the confines of the lab.

"I have always believed it is important to do great science but also educational initiatives that can contribute to the community and help people understand how science is relevant to them," says Fixler.

"Now, everyone in our area will know what we are doing and celebrate with us the great science we do and understand its importance."

"New Languages" is just the beginning, Fixler says. "We are working with Tel Aviv University and with

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Nanoscience and Art Museum...continued from previous page

other museums on lots of collaborations."

Magnificent experiences

BINA's previous director, Prof. Yuval Garini, was the visionary behind the museum, which was funded by the Fetter family.

"We wanted to dazzle visitors with magnificent experiences, exposing them to scientific principles and to the vast research possibilities in the natural sciences," Garini said.

To encourage fruitful collaborations between artists and scientists, about seven years ago, Garini and Yizrael organized a hackathon bringing

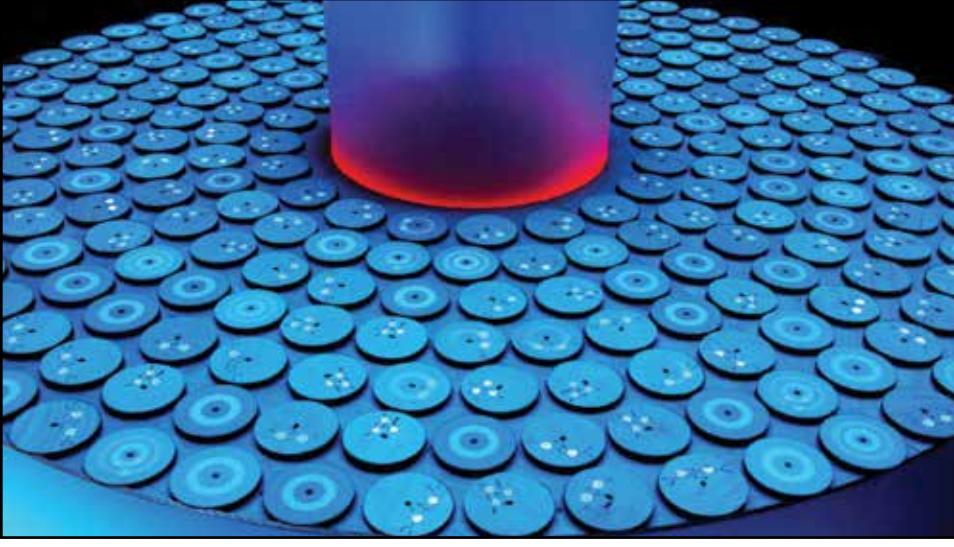
together 30 BINA scientists and 40 artists from various disciplines.

After presenting their works and ideas to each other, they formed teams and brainstormed for two days on possible exhibits.

This process continued for nearly a year and resulted in the creation of more than 20 art-science collaborations. Thirteen of these formed the core of the museum's first exhibition.

Engaging the public

Fixler, who took over the directorship in 2017, said he understood just how much science could excite the community when he went to Braga, Portugal,



Ela Goldman's spinning and resting tops carry fluorescent molecules to illustrate Prof. Dror Fixler's experiments using gold nanoparticles to detect disease (photo by Michael Amar)

in September 2018, for an anniversary celebration at the United Nations International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL).

He bought some kosher items at the local supermarket, and the cashier asked if he had a loyalty card.

"I said, 'No, I don't live here.' And then she asked if I had come for the INL summit. I said, 'How do you know?' And she told me that everyone

in town was planning to go to the gala that night. Even the supermarket cashier."

Fixler realized at that moment the potential for BINA to engage and delight the public. The museum, he says, will offer hands-on activities for adults and children in addition to continuing exhibitions.

For more information, please visit en.nanomuseum.org.il/. ▲

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A Jewish call to action: 10 ways to fight back

By David Harris, CEO of American Jewish Committee (AJC), June 16, 2021

Seemingly overnight, anti-Israel, anti-Zionist and antisemitic incidents are being reported near and far. Many American Jews, who not so long ago thought these were threats faced by Jews elsewhere in the world but not here at home, are suddenly waking up to new realities.

From the halls of Congress to Silicon Valley, from high schools to universities, from Hollywood to labor unions, and from local town boards to globalized social media platforms, this has become a chilling version of Whack-a-Mole, where you don't know the next source but do know it will rear its head – and with a vengeance.

One overarching question is how to respond. There is no one-size-fits-all answer, but here are 10 possibilities:

First, elected officials should be held accountable for how they react or fail to react when Israel is maligned, or Zionism is demonized, or Jews are threatened or, for that matter, when the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism comes up as a proposal for adoption.

Politicians who seek support in every election cycle should understand that these are factors that matter to many of us. They should not be allowed to get away with practiced soundbites or glib phrases when they appear in front of, say, a synagogue, but then take a

different stance elsewhere.

Case in point: In the 11 days of fighting last month triggered by Hamas-launched rockets at Israel, many political leaders stepped up to express their support and clear understanding of the storyline. But others, including some who purport to be friends of the pro-Israel community, were missing in action or resorting to whispered comments for fear they could otherwise potentially jeopardize their careers. That should be unacceptable.

Second, institutions need to be held accountable. Some schools and colleges support Jewish and pro-Israel

intimidation, bullying or ostracism. Jewish and pro-Israel students have the right to feel safe, protected, free to express their views and take pride in their identity, no less than any others.

If those institutions fail, then they, too, need to be held to account by trustees, alumni, parents, prospective parents and others.

Third, show Jewish pride. This is no time for American Jews to become Marrano Jews. We have not experienced the extraordinary journey from 1654, when the first Jews landed on this soil, to now consider, in 2021, removing the mezuzahs from our doors, or kippahs

It should be abundantly clear from Jewish history that antisemites, whether from the far left or the far right, don't differentiate for long between "good" and "bad" Jews, any more than they would distinguish among "Zionists," "non-Zionists" and "anti-Zionists."

students on campus who feel targeted, whether in the classroom or on the quad, while others have betrayed the trust of those students.

This is not about asking our institutions to become full-throated supporters of a particular political stance, but rather ensuring that their environments do not become poisoned by hatred, bigotry,

from our heads, or the word "Jewish" from the facades of our institutions, or in any other way seeking cover or hiding under the bed.

To the contrary, exactly like other Americans, we can and should openly affirm our identity, celebrate our remarkable heritage and remind ourselves of the manifold contribu-

tions of Jews to every facet of American society. Our hashtag should be #JewishANDProud.

Fourth, embrace Israel. Some Jews seem to believe that distancing, if not detaching, themselves from any link with Israel will protect them or, at the very least, endear them to the anti-Israel, anti-Zionist mobs. How tragic that, after nearly 1,900 years of Jewish yearning for even a sliver of land, where Jews could govern themselves and not be subject to the whim of the majority, the fact that we live in an era of Jewish sovereignty is not universally valued. No, Israel is not a perfect country. Nor is any other country on earth, including the United States. Still, the story of Israel is awe-inspiring, a metaphor for the triumph of enduring hope over the temptation of despair, and a democratic, progressive beacon in a part of the world with too few counterparts.

Fifth, when it comes to antisemitism, it's essential to be swivel-headed. This age-old pathology comes from multiple sources. But too many have insisted on a narrower vision, only calling out the threat when it serves their own partisan political preference. So, Jews on the left point their finger at the far right, while Jews on the right point their finger at the far left, when the truth is they're both correct.

continued on next page

Marcia Can Help

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



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



Help us meet these pressing needs by contributing to the MARCIA CAN HELP fund.
For further information please contact Alan Isaacs at (239) 481-4449 ext. 6 or alanisaacs@jfedlcc.org.

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David Harris...continued from previous page

The events in Charlottesville, Pittsburgh and Poway, not to mention the conspiracy theories peddled by the likes of QAnon, are stark reminders of the real, deadly menace from the far right.

Meanwhile, the events of recent weeks, from the streets of New York to the restaurants of Los Angeles, demonstrate that not all threats to Jews today come from the far right. The same can be said for what Jewish and pro-Israel students are facing on some campuses, where, again, the danger does not emanate from the far right. And then throw in the ever-present danger of jihadists, too often in alliance with the far left, as we have seen both in the United Kingdom and U.S., and it becomes all the more clear that we must have a 360-degree view.

Sixth, focus on young Jews. Insofar as one of the major battlefronts has indeed become educational settings, it's all the more important that our children and grandchildren are as prepared as possible for what they may face. Not easy under any circumstance. In the classroom, there is a power imbalance between, say, a hostile professor or teaching assistant, on the one hand, and a student who tries to push back, on the other. A young person bucking the "politically correct" and "intersectional" crowd could easily face social isolation or worse. When it comes to affirming Jewish identity, Zionism and pro-Israelism, it can require not just confidence in one's sense of self, but also a heavy dose of social courage.

That's why if we count on young people to stand up and be heard, then we have to help prepare them for the various situations in which they may find themselves. Plus, they need to feel the support of family, Jewish organizations and Jewish institutions on campus. What's happening is not just battles over, for example, a boycott, divestment and sanctions referendum, but, more broadly, a high-stakes fight for the outlook of the next generation of American leaders.

Seventh, antisemitism is not just a Jewish problem. When Jews are targeted as Jews, on the streets, in shops or at synagogues, the threat is most immediately, of course, directed at Jews. However, these also need to be seen as assaults on the fabric and fiber of America's democratic, plural-

istic society. In other words, when any minority is threatened, our country as a whole is at risk. There are both real and potential allies out there who understand the stakes involved, just as there are such allies who recognize that Israel is a key American partner, sharing both values and interests with our country. Hence, it would be shortsighted to try and portray the current challenges we, as Jews, face as if they were Jewish alone. They're not, and we shouldn't shortchange ourselves by thinking and acting as if they are.

Eighth, engage partners. In the current moment, amidst this new sense of vulnerability, let's be mindful of some basic facts about the United States. For one thing, poll after poll, year after year, reveal that large numbers of Americans support Israel and the U.S.-Israel relationship. Similarly, a number of studies have also shown that Jews are highly regarded among the panoply of American group identities. So, it's not as if we're suddenly alone, isolated and friendless.

Nor is it as if we, the Jewish community, haven't been a friend to other communities in America over years, decades and even centuries, whether it's been in the fight for civil rights and social justice, or overcoming unjust immigration restrictions, or standing up for other targeted or beleaguered communities. True friendships must work both ways, all the more so in times of need.

Ninth, learn some basic truths. Sure, the Middle East is an informational minefield with competing narratives and storylines racing in every direction.

But, none of that should obscure some basic facts, such as: (a) Jews are indigenous to the region, just as Arabs are. (b) The relationship between Jews and this part of the world dates back continuously more than 3,500 years. (c) Israel's modern-day birthright emanated from the Balfour Declaration, the San Remo Conference, the League of Nations and the United Nations. How many nations on earth, including a number of Israel's neighbors, can claim so many layers of legitimacy? (d) The Palestinians could have had a state of their own on multiple occasions, beginning in 1947-8, but spurned every opportunity. (e) Israel withdrew lock, stock and barrel from Gaza in 2005. (f) By 2007, Hamas, designated a terrorist organization by both the United States and European Union, seized power. (g)

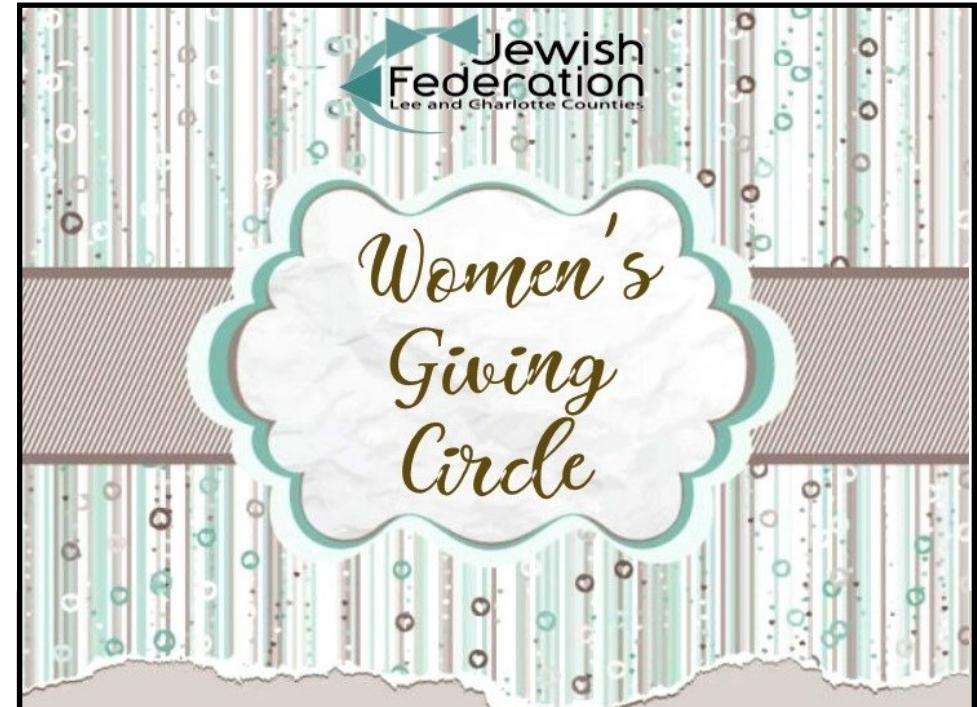
The Hamas Charter explicitly calls for the destruction of the State of Israel and accuses Jews of fomenting the French Revolution, the First World War and the Second World War. (h) Hamas is funded and supplied by Iran, whose leadership openly calls for the annihilation of Israel. (i) Gaza has borders with both Israel and Egypt, and not just Israel, as many allege. (j) Israel is among the most multicultural, multiracial and multifaith societies on the planet. (k) Israel is a vibrant democracy and Israeli Arabs, who comprise approximately 20% of the population, can be found on the Supreme Court, in the Knesset and throughout Israeli society.

And tenth, draw lessons from Jewish history. It should be abundantly clear from Jewish history that antisemites, whether from the far left or the far right, don't differentiate for long between "good" and "bad" Jews, any more than they would distinguish among "Zionists," "non-Zionists" and

"anti-Zionists." Yet, astonishingly, some Jews still don't seem to have gotten the message. They think they can buy time or space or security by joining in the assault against Israel or even by rationalizing attacks against Jews. Sooner or later, though, as has happened over the centuries, their day of reckoning would be likely to come if antisemites ever gain sufficient power again.

Bottom line: There is much we can, must and should do, and the more we can achieve a sense of common purpose – dare I say unity? – the more likely we are to succeed in confronting both the old and new demons that we're facing today. ▲

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



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Briefs...continued from page 25

Jews skyrocketed, many progressive organizations, usually so quick to rally around threatened minority groups, have sadly been absent and silent. At the same time, the line between anti-Zionism and antisemitism has too often almost ceased to exist.

Nearly 50 years ago, the great Israeli diplomat Abba Eban said, "Classical antisemitism denies the rights of Jews as citizens within society. Anti-Zionism denies the equal rights of the Jewish people to their lawful sovereignty within the community of nations. All that has happened is that the discriminating principle has been transferred from the realm of individ-

ual rights to the domain of collective identity." (William C. Daroff, CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, *New York Daily News*)

VISIONS OF LIFE FOR ISRAEL'S ARABS

Which Middle Eastern country offers the best life for Arabs? Take any measure – democratic representation, women's rights, lack of corruption, freedom of speech, the protection of sexual minorities – and Israel comes out on top. While Palestinians have been blocked again and again from casting

continued on page 32

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Connecting the dots

A long time ago, my high school orchestra conductor used to go apoplectic when he tried to get us to be quiet before beginning a piece of music. All at once, one person was re-tuning her violin, another was practicing a scale, and a third was working out the chords for the next piece. He then would sigh, look at us and say, "Music starts from silence."

I think he would say something very similar about our culture today, were he still around. The noise level is enormous. Television, radio, Facebook – no matter what you are reading or listening to, there is a lot of noise that goes with it. Whatever someone says, you will find someone to disagree with it. Arguments, polemics and dissension are so widespread that it is tough to separate the wheat from the chaff. And there is a lot of chaff.



■ **Rabbi
Michael J.
Schorin**

Hodding Carter once said, "Television news is like a lightning flash. It makes a loud noise, lights up everything around it, leaves everything else in darkness and then is suddenly gone."

Often, when the noise gets out of control, it becomes hard to hear oneself think. And, for a people whose most famous prayer begins with the word 'shema' (listen), we don't always do a great job of that.

As we make ready for the Yamim Noraim (the Days of Awe), maybe the best thing we can do is to get quiet. Why? So that we can hear our inner voices tell us what we might have done wrong and what we might do better. According to James Stephens, "Quietness is the beginning of virtue, to be silent is to be beautiful, stars do not make a noise."

Our faith has a strong approval of silence as well. In Pirkei Avot (1:17), Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel says, "All my days I have grown up among the wise and I have found nought of better service than silence; not learning but

doing is the chief thing and whoso is profuse of words causes sin."

And Rabbi David Cohen, a disciple of Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, saw the beginning of prophecy in listening. He quotes the prophet Isaiah (55:3), saying, "Turn your ears and come to Me, hear and your souls will live, and I will hew an eternal covenant with you."

So before we do acts of *teshuva*, and before we attend services, I pray that we will listen to our deepest

selves. Whether we call this voice our conscience or our Higher Power, it deserves a listen. So, when you can, turn off the TV, remove the headphones and ear pods, and allow yourself to get quiet. Who knows what wonderful insights we might hear! ▲

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

COMMENTARY BRIEFS

ANTISEMITISM IS GENUINELY UNIQUE AMONG THE WORLD'S HATREDS

The early Zionists shared the idea that the Jews must be liberated from their otherness by becoming a nation like all other nations. Normalize the Jews and you'll end or at least "normalize" antisemitism, transforming it to mere banal prejudice. Jewish nationhood and self-reliance would end the world's obsession with the Jew.

But the problem is that "antisemitism is something entirely unique and that it has nothing to do with the Jews," said Ruth R. Wisse, a now-retired Harvard historian of Yiddish and Jewish history. Jews became stand-ins for the fears and anxieties of competing political camps in a fast-changing world, first in Europe and later in the Arab and Muslim worlds. They became a vocabulary for distracting populations from their troubled leaderships.

When the white supremacists marching in Charlottesville in 2017 chanted, "Jews will not replace us," they were explaining away real anxieties by misdirecting them onto a nefarious Jewish power. To European conservatives of the 19th century, Jews were communist agitators. But in the Soviet sphere in the 20th century, they quickly became the regime's favorite target, depicted as a capitalist vanguard.

Antisemitism isn't simply a dislike of Jews. It involves the role Jews are forced to play in the political imaginations of non-Jews as the incarnation of and explanation for their deepest fears and most vexing social ills. It is not the idea that Israel is doing wrong, but the idea that Israel is what is wrong with the world. It is the political device that brought Adolf Hitler to tell the Reichstag in January 1939 that if a world war was coming, it was the Jews who will have started it. No other people and no other country serves a similar role as

the go-to culprit for malaises they can't possibly have caused. (Haviv Rettig Gur, *Times of Israel*)

NO, JEWS AREN'T WHITE

By any and all metrics at our disposal – archaeology, history, theology, even DNA tests – Jews are the indigenous people of the Land of Israel. Still, to the zealots who shout that Jews are white, all that matters is that for the last few decades, American Jews have benefited from the rewards that come with being among our society's most educated and best compensated few.

Yet the argument of privilege ignores the unique nature of anti-Jewish bigotry, a highly resistant viral strain that feeds precisely on the difficult truth that Jews don't really fit comfortably into any of the common categories. Jews are just Jews, a difficult realization that has driven haters to distraction throughout the generations. It's why we alone have been singled out for a steady stream of suspicion and persecution throughout history, even here in America. In 2019, nearly two-thirds of all religious-based hate crimes in America targeted Jews.

Some Jews may have more melanin in their skin or fewer dollars in their bank accounts, some may dress in black and some drape themselves in the colors of the rainbow, but all belong to an extended family that stayed a family because it insisted on the display of collective behaviors.

The creative genius of Jew-hatred has always been its ability to imagine the Jew as the embodiment of whatever it is that polite society finds repulsive. The Jew takes the shape of whatever the Jew-hater fears and loathes most. And if you decide that there's such a thing as "whites" and that they are uniquely responsible for all evils perpetrated on the innocent and downtrodden, well, the Jews must be not only of them but nestled comfortably at the top of the white-supremacist pyramid. (Liel Leibovitz, *Commentary*) ▲



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What is the unfinished business of our lives?

Rosh Hashanah is also called Yom HaZikaron – the Day of Remembering. But what are we supposed to remember? And what

do we do with the memories? Our sacred holy days are not only about reflecting on the past year, but reflecting on the wholeness of our life.

In the book *Unfinished Business*, author Lee Kravitz came across 10 cardboard boxes containing everything he had saved from the previous four decades of his life. Faced with the accumulated stuff of his life, he found evidence of relationships and learning, but also evidence of unfinished business: a condolence call he had put off, a grudge held from childhood, a friend with whom he had



■ Rabbi
Nicole
Luna

traveled the world only to then fall out of touch, a funeral he missed, a commitment to charity he didn't follow through on.

Our High Holy Day liturgy says, "In truth you are judge and arbiter, counsel and witness... you remember deeds long forgotten." The prayer is referring to God, but we all carry deeds or misdeeds in our heart that trouble our soul. We carry regrets, missed opportunities, failures of the heart. We are witnesses to our lives, we judge ourselves, we remember.

Kravitz spent the next year embarking on a journey to address 10 items of unfinished business in his life. From Yom HaZikaron to Yom Kippur, we have 10 days. What is the unfinished business of our lives?

Think of all your relationships – friends, relatives, rivals, teachers, coaches, mentors, former teammates and classmates, co-workers and bosses,

former spouses, girlfriends, boyfriends, children. Have you lost touch with someone who had once been important to you? Is there someone you feel guilty about or feel angry about? Is there an important task you keep putting off because it seems too difficult or time-consuming to complete? The process of systematically reviewing our life is called *cheshbon ha'nefesh*, literally, an accounting of our life.

Perhaps these questions bring up memories we've hidden away in the recesses of our being. Perhaps our impulse is to let bygones be bygones, not to drudge up past memories. We tell ourselves we don't have time to go back to what once was. Or we're afraid of being disappointed, being embarrassed, encountering painful memories, doing something wrong, saying

the wrong thing. Our relationships have changed. Yet Elie Wiesel once famously said, "I don't live in the past. But what can I do – the past lives in me."

Our past shapes our current identity, our present mindset. It created the person we are and it can help us determine the person we want to be. Pirkei Avot, the wisdom of our ancestors, encourages us: Think of three things and you will not fall into sin: where you came from, where you are going and to whom you are accountable.

We are entering another year full of uncertainty. Let us take action in the ways we can, and in completing tasks meaningful to our lives, find hope for the future. ▲

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

It's time to return

With Rosh Hashanah upon us, our opportunity for renewal is coming. We begin the difficult process of *cheshbon hanefesh* – taking an honest look inside our deepest selves, taking an account of our souls.

With the lessons learned during the pandemic, we begin *tshuvah*, where we reassess, and return our souls to their more G-dly origin. With an optimistic outlook we may look

back and see that the challenges we've experienced during Covid were not without purpose and have given us a renewed sense of appreciation for many of the little things we formerly took for granted. If we look back through a lens of positivity, we can write a new chapter for ourselves in the book of life in which we say, "Gam zu l'tova – this too is for the good."

This year, the idea of *tshuvah* (return) takes on an even more profound meaning as we thank G-d for our return to in person, communal worship, a deeper connection to our Jewish roots and each other, and a celebration of our beautiful and ancient traditions.

Every year, we're given the opportunity to return to our more G-dly

a vote for over a decade, Israeli Arabs have made it to the ballot box four times in the last two years. In June, their efforts produced an Arab minister in the cabinet.

A portion of Israel's Arab population is indelibly hostile to the state, cleaving to Palestinian nationalism or religious fundamentalism. But the majority does not strongly share these feelings. Recently, I visited Acre, a scene of recent rioting, with an old city that is 95% Arab. Residents told me they attributed the unrest more to the disaffection of local youngsters than



■ Rabbi
Lawrence
Dermer

selves with the realization that we were created to have happiness, joy and success in all we do. We have the choice to say, "I can't do it, I can't be it, I'm afraid to fail," or we can say, "I can do it, be it, it's never too late and anything is possible." As we face the ups and downs of these very uncertain times in which we live, and as we wander, struggle, search and prepare, we understand that we are not perfect and our *tshuvah* is a work in progress.

As we find new ways to deal with life situations we face again and again, we can take comfort that our "search," like our Torah scroll, has no end.

May the coming of the new year bless us with the energy to prepare for the action we must take to improve, change, repair friendships and heal broken relationships, knowing we can only reach out to G-d if we first repair our human relationships. May our "search" prepare us for a 5782 of "return" to our better, more G-dly selves, and a "return" to each other! May 5782 be the year in which our belief and faith in G-d and ourselves only grows stronger, and may we all be nothing less than the absolute highest and best possible version of ourselves! *Shanah Tova U'metuka*. ▲

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

Briefs...continued from page 29

a vote for over a decade, Israeli Arabs have made it to the ballot box four times in the last two years. In June, their efforts produced an Arab minister in the cabinet.

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some bold, political statement.

Ze'ev Jabotinsky, Netanyahu's intellectual forebear and hardly a shrinking violet when it came to Jewish self-determination, wrote: "All of us, all Jews and Zionists of all schools of thought, want the best for the Arabs of Eretz Israel. We want them to prosper both economically and culturally. We envision the regime of Jewish Palestine as follows: most of the population will be Jewish, but equal rights for all Arab citizens will not only be guaranteed, they will also be fulfilled." (Jake Wallis Simons, *Spectator - UK*) ▲

The meaning of Rosh Hashanah

"**H**ayom harat Olam!" "This is the day of the world's birth," we proclaim each time we hear the shofar's blast! It is the central message of Rosh Hashanah: to celebrate the teachings and ideals of Genesis' magnificent Creation Story.



■ Rabbi
Stephen
Fuchs

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," our Torah begins. So many ask: How could God have created the world in seven days? What about the dinosaurs and evolution? Don't we believe in that?

Of course we believe in that! The creation story in Genesis does not offer a scientific account of HOW the world was created. It is rather an exquisite religious poem offering insight as to WHY we are here.

The biblical authors were not interested in writing science. The truths of the creation story are the religious ideas that it sets forth – ideas upon which all subsequent Jewish thought depends.

The first assumption of the story is that God is behind creation. However the world came to be, our story contends that a single, good, caring God initiated the process. God acted with purpose and meaning. Therefore, our lives have purpose and meaning.

The story reminds us that we human beings are in charge of and responsible for the world.

Until the text begins to tell of the creation of humanity, the method by which God creates is simple and clear: God said, "Let there be..." and the next step in creation unfolds.

Suddenly, God's method changes. "And God said: 'Let us create humanity in our image after our likeness. And they shall rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and all the earth and everything that creeps on the earth.' And God created us human

beings – male and female – in the Divine Image." (Genesis 1:26)

That does not mean that we look like God; God has no shape or form. It means that we human beings have God-like powers, and the Almighty puts us in charge of and responsible for the earth. It is an awesome power, and we can use it for good or for ill.

The Midrash (Bereshit Rabbah 8:11) teaches that we human beings stand midway between God and the rest of the animals. Like the animals, we eat, sleep, drink, procreate, eliminate our waste and die. But in a God-like way we have the power to think, analyze, create and shape the environment in ways that far surpass any other creature.

Only humans can go to the side of a mountain, mine ore from the mountain, turn the ore into iron, the iron into steel, and with that steel forge the most delicate of surgical instruments to heal and to save lives.

But only humans can go to the same mountain, mine the same ore, and from that ore fashion bombs and bullets whose only purpose is to kill and to maim.

Finally, the Creation Story introduces the concept of Shabbat, a weekly day to step back from our strivings and contemplate how we can better fulfill God's charge to us to make a better world.

Genesis' Creation Story makes no pretense of being scientific. It teaches the core values upon which our religious traditions rests. It teaches that God entrusts the earth to our care, and it warns us, as the Midrash (Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13) reminds us: This is the only earth we will get.

The message of our New Year is that we must care for the earth God entrusted to our care, and work – each of us in our own way – to create on it, a just, caring and compassionate society. ▲

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

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Moving forward

We usually don't think much about the lyrics of the songs we like. The melody is what catches us, stirring us somewhere deep inside. I personally was a big fan of the music of Paul Simon, though I often did not understand the imagery of his lyrics. "If you'll be my bodyguard, I will be your long-lost pal?" But one of his songs, whose melody I like, is unsettling.

"Slip slidin' away, slip slidin' away. You know the nearer your destination the more you're slip slidin' away." He concludes the song with this verse: "God only knows, God makes his plan; the information's unavailable to the mortal man. We work our jobs, collect our pay, believe we're gliding down the highway when in fact we're slip slidin' away."

These lyrics are fatalistic, even cynical. I don't believe their message. I know that unexpected bad stuff happens to all of us, a lot. I know that sometimes our best efforts come to naught. But throughout my career I have met people who have had personal or business failures and have not given up. They have picked themselves up, doggedly pursued their goals and succeeded. Referring to another Paul Simon song, we rarely get a smooth ride. But persistence and determination can bring fulfillment.

Writing at the beginning of August, our country, Israel, and the rest of the world seem to be moving backwards. Back in December, when the first vaccines were given, I thought we were seeing the beginning of the end of

The Haftorah of the first day of Rosh Hashana relates the story of Chana, who was , and came to the sanctuary to pray. In the merit of her prayers, she was blessed with a son — the prophet Samuel.

Eli, the High Priest, seeing Chana so immersed in prayer and oblivious to her surroundings, suspected her of being intoxicated — not from wine, but from the very act of praying.

"I am not drunk," Chana explained. "I am pouring out my soul before the L-rd." Through prayer, Chana's soul was uniting with G-d.

On Rosh Hashana we ask G-d to fulfill our needs. Our requests are spiritual and material. We ask Him to bless us with healthy children, long lives and an abundant livelihood.

Rosh Hashana is the day of G-d's

the pandemic. I was expecting a sprint to herd immunity. Instead, we are seeing an ultra-marathon, a very long race filled with pain and doubt.

But I do believe we will finish this race, that the pandemic will recede, and that we will feel safe returning to our activities without wearing a mask. I personally applaud those companies that have mandated vaccination or mask-wearing. They are creating a safe environment for their staff and customers. If this is an ultra-marathon, then we are at the moment when we resist the pain, find the grit and insist on moving forward.

As frustrated as I am, I am also in awe of the incredible work synagogues and Jewish organizations across the world did during the past year and a half. All of us quickly pivoted to offer virtual services, youth and adult education, and social programs. The Jewish world has been very creative in staying connected and continuing to celebrate Jewish life. However much longer this pandemic goes on, I believe we will adapt to the circumstances and remain strong.

I don't share the fatalism of Paul Simon. We are not slip slidin' away. We have hit a bump in the road and we must push through it. I believe we will. I believe we will gather again, without masks, and celebrate Jewish life. We will finish this race. I look forward to that time coming soon.

As of this writing at the beginning of August, Temple Judea has not made a final decision about our presentation of High Holiday services. In whatever way we celebrate, we wish everyone a year of health and happiness. ▲

Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.

Blood guilt on a house

When you build a new house, make a fence around the roof so as not to bring a blood guilt (*damim*) on your house should someone fall from it."

(Deuteronomy 22:8)

The roof was an important space when this was written. Back then, the typical home in the region was a rectangular stone structure around 36 x 24 feet divided into four rooms with stone pillars or wooden beams supporting a sturdy wooden roof used for storage, sleeping on cool pleasant nights, enjoying an evening breeze and even for worship. Sometimes, a modest upper chamber, not unlike a small sukkah, was erected on part of the roof to accommodate guests. The wooden roofs were likely covered with tight woven reed mats serving both as waterproofing for the rooms below and as flooring for those on the roof.

Fifty years ago, for several months, I rented a small room in an Arab hostel just across from the Damascus Gate. It was a very old building with no air conditioning and not the greatest ventilation, so we guests enjoyed socializing, snacking and even sleeping on the roof for many very pleasant Jerusalem summer nights. Probably not that different from the days of Deuteronomy!

But back to our verse. What does "blood guilt" on a house mean? The verse does not suggest that the owners of the house are personally guilty of homicide. Rashi, the Frankish 11th commentator, notes that while the person who falls from your roof has the direct responsibility, even so, the own-

ers are drawn into this event, suggesting that they had some sort of "karmic" guilt. And surely from there on in, your new place will be known as "that bloody house."

So what does this have to do with my synagogue and you? Even though it is solely your choice as to how or even whether you chose to try to protect yourself from the Coronavirus, we don't want to be associated with you getting very sick or worse as a possible result of you coming to worship with us. We do not want that *damim* on our place of worship. You get the point. It's the "honor system." Please honor our wishes. (As an aside, we will be offering masks as worshippers enter the building. I will urge all of us to wear masks for Days of Awe worship as a simple courtesy to those who do.)

So consider this column as a "fence" commanded by the Torah. If, for any reason, you have chosen not to be inoculated against this virus, God bless you, but please do not come worship with us on the Days of Awe. While you do not pose a special risk to the rest of us, coming unprotected to a room full of people who are freely interacting with others, many of whom are singing out loud, puts you in grave danger from which no mask can protect you.

We will be Zooming these services and you can easily connect via our website at fortmyerssynagogue.com.

Be assured that when we are praying for life in the new year, we will also be praying for you. You're going to need it! ▲

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

Rosh Hashana prayers: personal or unity with G-d?

The coronation as King, as we say, "Reign over the whole world in Your glory."

How do we accept G-d's sovereignty? By nullifying ourselves in His Presence. When we are completely nullified before the King, we are unaware of our personal desires, aware only of being in G-d's Presence.

This presents us with a seeming contradiction. If Rosh Hashana is characterized by an absence of self-perception, how can we simultaneously pray for the fulfillment of our personal requests?

When a Jew prays to G-d on Rosh Hashana, his prayer is an extension of the process of coronation. While superficially he may be asking G-d for material blessings, his true intention, whether consciously or subconsciously, is the desire to spread awareness of G-d's kingship in the world. By praying for material blessing, the Jew is merely asking for Divine assistance in fulfilling his G-dly mission on earth.

It was this concept that was un-

clear to Eli the priest. His contention was that when a Jew prays, there is no room for personal requests. The awareness of being in G-d's Presence should be so intense that it precludes anything else. When Eli saw Chana praying for a child, he mistakenly concluded that she had forgotten G-d's Presence.

Not so, was Chana's reply. Her longing for a child was not a personal desire, but a wish to fulfill a greater mission in life. This is evident in the vow she made, that if G-d would bless her, the child would be given over for

What do you think?
L'CHAYIM wants to know!
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Letters Policy

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

TEMPLE JUDEA SCHOOLS Fort Myers

Temple Judea Religious School

*Tab Scribner,
Director of Congregational Learning*
We're back! It is so exciting to be able to say that. As spectacular as my visit to Israel was, it is good to be back, and especially good to be back with the kids.

On August 15, we kicked off a new year with new friends. One of my favorite things about starting a new year is seeing how returning students accept new students, almost instantaneously. I wish the same could be said for regular schools. Maybe it's a Jewish thing or maybe we just have great kids.

No sooner did we start the year, the High Holidays are already upon us.

Unless things get significantly worse with the Covid pandemic, we are hosting children's (grades

K-7) High Holiday programming on Erev Rosh Hashanah, September 6 at 5:00 p.m.; Rosh Hashanah, September 7 at 10:30 a.m.; Kol Nidre, September 15 at 6:45 p.m.; and Yom Kippur, September 16 at 10:30 a.m. We ask that families RSVP for the dates they plan on their children attending. This will allow us to make sure we have the most appropriate programming, adequate supplies and sufficient supervision for all the children. To RSVP, call our office at 239.433.0201 or email me at tjswfledu@gmail.com.

For more information on Temple Judea Religious School programming or enrollment information, please contact me.

Candle lighting times:

September 3: 7:27

September 10: 7:19

September 17: 7:11

September 24: 7:04



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TEMPLE BETH EL SCHOOLS

Fort Myers

Temple Beth El Religious School

Alyssa Raab

Temple Beth El Religious School is resuming in-person on Sunday, August 29 with *tefila*, an outdoor bagel brunch and a colorful painting project to kick off the year! We cannot wait for our *talmidim* (students) to return to in-person learning.

We will be utilizing the same engaging Jewish curriculum that we used last year, ShalomLearning. This curriculum focuses on the values of *Teshuvah* (Taking responsibility for your actions), *B'Tzelem Elohim* (Honoring the image of G-d in ourselves and others), *Gevurah* (Using one's inner strength to do what's right), *Achrayut* (Doing what you can to make the world a better place), *Hakarat Hatov* (Seeking joy and being grateful), *Koach Hadibbur* (Understanding the power of words) and *Shalom* (Helping to create a

calmer, more peaceful world). It is our hope that our *talmidim* feel supported, connected and at home while they are at TBE. The form for enrollment is available at templebethel.com under 'Learn' followed by the 'Youth Education' tab.

If you are looking for a welcoming place to celebrate the High Holidays with your student(s), we would be happy to have you join us! Junior Congregation for Rosh Hashanah will be at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 7 (regular service starts at 10:00 a.m.), followed by Tashlich at 12:30 p.m. Junior Congregation for Yom Kippur will be at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 16 (regular service starts at 10:00 a.m.). On Sunday, September 19, there will be a Sukkot celebration at TBE.

For more details as they are announced, and to find tickets and reservations for these events, visit our website at templebethel.com. All are welcome. We hope to see you soon! *L'hitraot!*

Stay connected all month long at
www.JewishFederationLCC.org

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

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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)



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debbiesanford@jfedi.org

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BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS**REFORM**

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

**CHABAD
OF BONITA SPRINGS/ESTERO****ORTHODOX**

24850 Old 41 Road, Suite 20
(in the Bernwood Centre)
Bonita Springs, FL 34135-7024
Rabbi Mendy Greenberg
Phone: 239-949-6900
Web site: www.JewishBonita.com
Services: Saturday at 10 a.m.
followed by a Kiddush

**CHABAD JEWISH CENTER
OF CAPE CORAL****ORTHODOX**

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

CHABAD OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY**ORTHODOX**

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

**CHABAD LUBAVITCH
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA****ORTHODOX**

5620 Winkler Road
Fort Myers, FL 33919
Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz
Phone: 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 a.m.; Shacharit 10 a.m.;
Kiddush at noon
Minyan: Monday & Thursday 7:00 a.m.

**SYNAGOGUES &
JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS
IN LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES****CHAVURAT SHALOM OF SWFL****CHAVURA**

P.O. Box 722, Sanibel, FL 33957
Chavuratshalom@gmail.com
www.chavuratshalomofsouthwestflorida.org
Leonard E. Minsky, President

COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE**REFORM**

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

SHALOM LIFE CENTER**TRANS DENOMINATIONAL**

19691 Cypress View Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33967
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: info@templebethel.com
Learning Tree Preschool Director:
Jesyca Virnig
Email: LearningTree15@yahoo.com
President: Hank Betchen
Email: HankTBE@gmail.com
Phone: 239-433-0018 • Fax: 239-433-3235
Web site: www.templebethel.com
Shabbat services: 7:30 p.m. Friday;
Torah study 9:00 a.m. Saturday; B'nai
Mitzah 10:30 a.m. Saturday Religious &
Hebrew School: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 Sunday
Judaica Gift Gallery
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM**REFORM**

702 S.E. 24th Ave., Cape Coral, FL 33990
Rabbi Devora Buchen
President: Peter Simenauer
Phone: 239-772-4555 • Fax: 239-772-4625
E-mail: office@templebethshalomcc.org
Web site: www.templebethshalomcc.org
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Religious School: Wednesday
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
Torah study with Rabbi Buchen:
Shabbat 10:30 a.m.
Organizations:
Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Family Service
(1st Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m.)

TEMPLE JUDEA**CONSERVATIVE**

14486 A&W Bulb Road
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Rabbi Marc Sack
E-mail: rabbi@tjswfl.org
President: Dan Fox
Director of Congregational Learning:
Tab Scribner
Preschool Director: Joann Goldman
templejudeapreschool@gmail.com
Phone: 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 p.m.
Early childhood education: Preschool, M-F,
ages 18 months-5 years;
"Mommy & Me," 12 months-2 years
Affiliated: United Synagogue of
Conservative Judaism

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

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

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: Gene Sipe - 239-841-4615
- Generations of the Shoah SWFL: 263-9200
- Hadassah - Collier/Lee Chapter:
Joyce Toub - 518-330-1559
- Hadassah-Sharon Chapter (Charlotte County):
Odette Port - 941-505-1409
- Hazak 55+ Chapter:
Joyce Rosinger - 239-437-1566
- Israel Bonds: Regional Headquarters:
800-622-8017
- Jewish Community Services:
239-481-4449
- Jewish National Fund:
Joshua Mellits, Director, Western Florida
941-462-1330 ext. 865
Memorial Tree Planting in Israel
1-800-542-8733
- Jewish War Veterans:
Post 400: Commander
Harvey Charter - 239-246-3151
- Mikvah Bashka of Southwest Florida:
Nechamie Minkowicz - 239-822-2784



CHAVURAT SHALOM OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

chavuratshalom@gmail.com

*Cheryl Fulmer, Ellen Feingold
and Marcia Rudin*

Chavurat Shalom of Southwest Florida wishes the entire *L'CHAYIM* community a healthy and good New Year. May the Jewish community prosper in 5782 as Chavurat Shalom has flourished. As Jews say at the end of every book of the Torah, "May we go from strength to strength and may we be strengthened."

Chavurat Shalom looks forward to the year 5782 filled with cultural and religious activities that enrich our Jewish souls. Our warm and welcoming Shabbat services, completely lay-led on Friday evenings, presently begin at 7:30 p.m. They are a blend of English and Hebrew, English

readings and poems, Hebrew prayers recited or chanted, and meaningful songs. Everyone is welcome. If

you would like to join in, please send an email to chavuratshalom@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

The Chavurah will host several High Holiday programs. As a special New Year's gift, Chavurat Shalom's own Myra Klahr has produced a booklet of six of her poems for members. On Tuesday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m., members will enjoy an Apples and Honey Schmooze via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join. At 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 9, Rabbi Elliott Kleinman, Chief Engagement Officer of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, will speak about the meaning of the Unah Taneh Tokef prayer. A Yizkor Memorial Service will take place on Sunday, September 12 at 11:00 a.m. A Break the Fast Zoom is planned for Thursday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m. Chavurat Shalom members will sound the shofar before Shabbat services (before sunset) during the month of Elul in preparation for the

High Holidays. And thanks to Susan Spohr, who organized the Honey From the Heart Project, members can send wishes for a sweet year to each other via jars of delicious honey.

If you want to participate in any of these events, email chavuratshalom@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link. For further information about these special events, visit chavuratshalomofsouthwestflorida.org.

The Chavurah's Thursday talks (on Zoom) at 11:00 a.m. will resume in September. They feature a mix of indigenous and outside talent on topics suggested by members. The Saturday morning 11:00 a.m. Jewish Current Events Zoom will resume in October.

Rabbi Myra Soifer, broadcasting from Reno, Nevada, will continue to share her wisdom with us in her "Text of the Month Club" held on the third Thursday of the month (except for September, when it will be on the 30th) at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. She selects the text from the Hebrew Bible, Haftorah, Talmud or other Jewish sources, and

emails the study text in advance of the session to class participants. To join the class and receive the Zoom link, send a request to the above email address.

Chavurat Shalom is planning a Winter Potluck Sunday Brunch Series. The first Potluck Sunday Brunch and Hanukkah Party will be held on December 5 at 1:00 p.m. at The Gulfside Condominium Clubhouse on Sanibel. If you would like to attend or help with this event, please email us.

Be sure to check our website for all updates on what's happening at the Chavurah.

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, including visitors and guests. Chavurat Shalom is not affiliated with any organized movement.

The group is community-led.

May the Hebrew year 5782 usher in a time of peace in all hearts, in the land of Israel and in all the world.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

(239) 566-1771

New year, new developments

Marina Berkovich

There are so many things to look forward to in 5782. Our Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers films were chosen for inclusion to the ANU Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv, Israel. It is a great honor, and we are proud to have our work in that important place where they will contribute Southwest Florida Jewish history to worldwide Jewish story. From this point forward, all the films in this series can be included, providing they carry the same quality of information and production. With your gracious help and generosity, we hope to steadily continue on this path.

We are also looking forward to in-person events resuming in 2022. On January 16, 2022, we will mark Florida Jewish History Month with our Annual Fundraiser. We will honor Rosalee

Bogo for her decades of dedicated service to the Greater Naples Jewish community. Rosalee's southern grace and humble gentility usually keep her in the shadows, yet she is a formidable force without whom many of Collier County's Jewish organizations would not have garnered the support they are enjoying in the 21st century.

Never Again on February 6, is the second of our celebratory events and will be conducted in partnership with the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center, honoring the exceptional work of Jack Nortman, aimed at preserving the lessons of the Holocaust and educating new generations. "No more genocides," is how Jack summarizes his ongoing efforts to maintain the Boxcar as part of the museum's exhibits where hundreds of local students can receive a hands-on experience of the unfortunate treatment Jews and other victims of the Nazis and Soviets were subjected to throughout World War II and afterwards.

We would love to see you for both of these unique events at the Hilton Naples. Champagne brunch details will follow. Come to toast our local Jewish honorees, watch the entertaining documentaries detailing their stories, and meet local dignitaries and celebrities who will pop in to take part in the festivities.

There will be at least two new films added to the Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers film series during the next Hebrew year, the Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida Virtual Museum will undergo a revamp, and our education Zoom sessions will continue. We have taken on a task that is important and necessary, and we are constantly rewarded and humbled by the excellent support of our community and beyond as we try to move faster and faster with our historical preservation mission.

Regrettably, many of our Southwest Floridians belong to the most vulnerable generation and will not be with us forever. Over the summer, we lost one of our Southwest Florida Pio-

neers, Richard Segelman. Richard was lovely. He spread sunshine wherever he went and encapsulated it in his many paintings. You experienced some of his loveliness by watching *Richard Segelman, A Man and His Art* on the Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida YouTube channel and at the Anu Museum of the Jewish People. We are so lucky to live in a digital age, and as we say goodbye to Richard, we will have him with us forever on film.

Have you joined our mission yet? Family Membership is \$54; Individual Membership is \$36; Student Membership is \$18. Please join us online by entering the appropriate amount or mail your check to:

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida
8805 Tamiami Trail North,
Suite # 255, Naples FL 34108
833.547.7935 (833.JHS.SWFL)

www.jhsswf.org ~ office@jhsswf.org
Virtual Museum of SWFL
Jewish History <http://jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org/>

to come and, of course, they will be Zoomed according to guidelines from National Hadassah. Besides our Expanding Horizons programs, we have a joint program with the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples in October, a speaker on Hadassah International from National Hadassah in November, and a Symposium on Women's Health and Wellness on December 1. I look forward to you all tuning in! Hadassah members will get more details in their Hadassah Happenings. If you are not a member and want more information, please contact me at joyt211639@aol.com.

As the High Holidays are approaching, I wish all of you and your families a wonderful New Year, 5782! May you and your loved ones be inscribed for a year filled with joy, health and peace! *L'shana Tova!*

HADASSAH Collier/Lee Chapter

(732) 539-4011

Joyce Toub

Recently, I flew from Fort Myers to Albany, New York, my northern home that I hadn't been back to since October 2020 because of Covid conditions and a family emergency. Storm conditions delayed the flight. Instead of coming home at 5:00 p.m., it would be 6:00 p.m. No big deal. I alerted friends who were picking me up of the delay, but little did I know that the plane would be diverted to Richmond, Virginia, where we stayed for the next six hours! The crew had timed out and different pilots were flown in from Atlanta to take us the rest of the way. My dear friends drove me home from the

airport at 2:00 a.m.

Walking into my entryway I saw beautiful plants, and thought my driving friends had done this. But no... my New York Hadassah group, unbeknownst to me, had done this! My table was all set up, with Chocolate Babka cake as a centerpiece. My refrigerator was stocked full of my favorite foods! I am shocked. My Hadassah New York friends were going to surprise me with a welcome home party at around 5:00 p.m. and waited three hours until they heard the most recent accounting of my flight. I was so surprised, thankful, grateful and totally taken aback! And I was sorry to disappoint them all because they hadn't seen my reaction.

Why am I telling you all this? What does Hadassah mean to us in America

and globally? The desire to help others to do good, to befriend those that those who are needy – physically, mentally, emotionally. To be a small part of a very large picture. As a member of this group for 40 years, most of us are/were professionals and desired the close friendships that this organization provided outside of our workplaces. We worked together for a common cause. We raised our children together, went to services together, learned together and helped each other out as needed. I belong to other organizations as well, but none with the tremendous heart that Hadassah has.

My Collier/Lee Hadassah board is as wonderful with many dedicated women bent on getting the job done, creating new activities, helping each other out, anytime, anywhere. Check our upcoming programs in the months

TEMPLE BETH EL

Fort Myers

(239) 433-0018

www.templebethel.com

Hinei Mah Tov – how wonderful it is to be together again! As we resume our Shabbat services in person at Temple Beth El, we find the hunger for connection has only grown over the past isolated year. And how much more meaningful the words of *Hinei Mah Tov* become as we eagerly anticipate the beauty and majesty of the High Holy Days together.

This year, we will be able to enjoy the soulful High Holy Day music that is so dear to us – together. Temple Beth El is proud to welcome Karen Pincus as our Cantorial Soloist for the High Holy Days. Karen is well known to the Miami Jewish community as a Cantorial Soloist and prayer leader. Her sacred song and prayer will beautifully enhance our High Holy Day services.

This year, we will be able to pray

with meaning and purpose together. Last year's call to convert to the High Holy Day Mishkan HaNefesh prayer book was answered with incredible generosity by

our Temple community. In addition to individual book purchases, nearly 200 prayer books were donated, assuring that all those who attend our services will be able to fully explore our rich Jewish liturgy.

And, of course, this year we will experience the joy, hope and renewal of the High Holy Days with our own Rabbi Nicole Luna – together. No one has been more touched and inspired by our newfound ability to worship in person than Rabbi Luna. As we choose life for the coming year, as we contemplate our future as one people, Rabbi Luna will be there to guide, support, illuminate and transform with us.

This year, the shofar will be blown, the songs will be sung, our lives will be touched, our souls will be uplifted. Together.

For information about Temple Beth El's High Holy Days services and holiday events, please call our office at 239.433.0018 or visit our website at templebethel.com. Our website is packed with information about our vibrant and engaged temple community and programs of interest to our greater Jewish community.

As the holidays approach, we embrace the Jewish value of *Tzedakah*. The Mitzvah Committee continues with its monthly Drive In-Drop Off food and feminine products collections. All donations are accepted at Temple Beth El the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. The Mitzvah Committee will also be passing out bags after Rosh Hashanah services to be filled with food and/or feminine supplies, to be returned at Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services. Gift cards and monetary donations are also requested.

Our ability to worship in person this year is greatly enhanced by having a completely remodeled and remediated temple building. Come for services or activities at Temple Beth El and

enjoy the beauty of our temple.

Temple Beth El is proud to announce that Ryan Seiser was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on August 7. Mazel Tov! We send our best wishes to Ryan and his family on reaching this milestone.

Watch for details about future Temple Beth El events. The Men's Club will be scheduling Bingo nights and Zoom Israel tours. Save the date of February 13 for the Temple Beth El Gala dinner featuring a live and silent auction. Planning is in the works for intimate gourmet dinners in the homes of congregants. And don't forget our recurring programming, including the Current Events discussion group, Theology and Life classes with Rabbi Luna, Hebrew classes and much more. Information is available on our website.

Follow Temple Beth El on Facebook (@TempleBethElOfFortMyers) and on Instagram (@templebethelfortmyers). We look forward to welcoming everyone – together. *L'Shanah Tovah* and *G'mar Chatima Tovah*.

SHALOM LIFE CENTER

Fort Myers

(239) 218-3433

www.shalomlifecenter.org

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

With limitless enthusiasm, creative programming and experience, SLC has

been dedicated to changing the face of our Jewish community and engaging those seeking a new and deeper connection to Judaism. As a sacred community committed

to the ideals of welcoming everyone in the "big tent" of transdenominational Judaism, we are building a bridge to connect each other with the values and principles of our Jewish past, the moral/ethical demands of the present, and the vision and energy to build for a Jewish tomorrow.

We are thrilled to be together again in person and are preparing to ensure an incomparable Southwest Florida Jewish Community 5782 High Holiday Experience and are looking forward to sharing the High Holy Days with our extended family. Our amazing symphonic ensemble and world-renowned concert musical accompanists will be back. Everyone is welcome to join our Shalom Life Center family this High Holy Days season in our comfortable and picturesque sanctuary for Rosh Hashanah, Tashlich and Yom Kippur services, our Yom Kippur afternoon

healing and meditative concert, followed by afternoon Neilah and Yizkor concluding Service and our Fabulous Break the Fast Feast!

While our message is traditional, our worship is contemporary and our services combine meaningful prayers and soaring melodies.

For more information on joining us for the High Holy Days, please call 239.218.3433 or email info@shalomlifecenter.org. Let your spirit soar at Shalom Life Center where prayer is always inspirational, meaningful and musical.

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

Sanibel

(773) 251-8862

www.batyam.org

The past summer, even with its Covid "Ups and Downs," was very fruitful for Bat Yam. We became heavy users of Zoom, and it was a lifesaver for us. Between services, lectures, various meetings and special programs, we realized 160 events!

Over the summer, Bat Yam volunteers led services each month. Thanks go to the following:

- May 14 - Alan & Edina Lessack, Ron & Janice Chaddock
- June 4 - Alan Fisher, Mike Raab, Riv Swartz
- July 2 - Michael & Tanya Hochschild, Mike Samet & Elissa, Karasin Samet
- August 6 - Howard Lorsch, Annette Pacyga, Sheila Sklar

Several people have expressed interest in membership, and we hope to have updated numbers for you next month. In the meantime, if you or anyone you know would like more information about Bat Yam, please contact one of our co-chairs who will be happy to help:

Judy Adler: jfadler@aol.com

Caren Schoen: chschoen@yahoo.com

Bat Yam Temple of the Islands extends a warm welcome to all who want to worship with us during the Days of Awe at services led by Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

and Cantor Murray Simon with musical accompaniment by Abbey Allison and guest artist Susanna Kelly. For all services, those who are fully vaccinated and masked are welcome to join us in person. All others should request a Zoom link by emailing batyamsanibel@gmail.com.

Here is our schedule:

Monday Sept 6, 7:00 pm Rosh Hashanah Eve

- Sermon, "Remember the Covenant"

Tuesday, Sept 7, 10:00 am Rosh Hashanah Morning

- Sermon, "Mah Nishtanah – What Makes Our New Year Different?"

Friday, Sept 10, 7:30 pm - Shabbat Shuvah

- Sermon, "Ten Reasons We Sound the Shofar"

Wednesday, Sept 15, 7:00 pm Kol Nidre

- Sermon, "Piercing the Walls"

Thursday, Sept 16, 10 am Yom Kippur Morning

- Sermon, "In Defense of Zionism"

12:00 noon - Congregants' Hour*

- Alan Fisher, Sheila Sklar, Rosamond Swartz

3:00 pm - Discussion of the Book of Jonah

3:45 pm - Musical interlude and mediation - Abigail Allison, piano; Susanna Kelly, cello

4:30 pm - Yizkor Reflection: "Remembering the Good!"

5:00 pm - Neilah

Monday, Sept 20, 7:00 pm - Erev

Sukkot

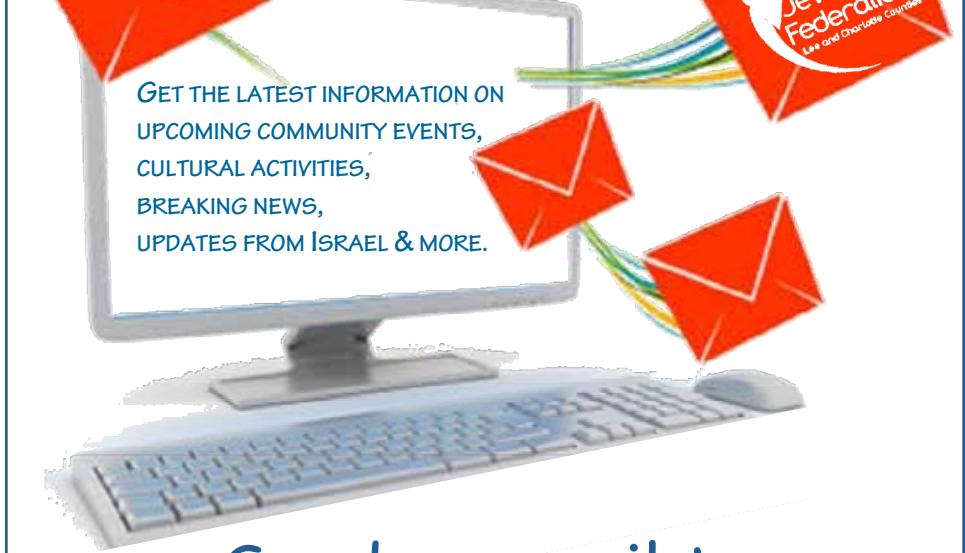
Monday, Sept 27 - Simchat Torah Celebration

* Note: Rabbi Fuchs instituted a meaningful activity several years ago. Each Yom Kippur, three congregants speak for 10 minutes each. They describe their background in Judaism from childhood to the present and how their involvement has affected their lives.

STAY IN TOUCH

Sign up for e-blasts!

GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ON
UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS,
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES,
BREAKING NEWS,
UPDATES FROM ISRAEL & MORE.



Send an email to
debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org

TEMPLE JUDEA
Fort Myers
(239) 433-0201
www.tjswfl.org

Temple Judea is the only Conservative congregation in Lee County. We are egalitarian and pride ourselves on being a warm and supportive community. We have an excellent religious school program, an active Sisterhood (Chaverot) and an active seniors group (HAZAK). Throughout the year there are a variety of religious, educational, social and social action activities, as well as regular Shabbat and holiday services.

Temple Judea is closely monitoring the spread of the pandemic. As of the writing of this column, in-person services are planned for the High Holy Days. Members will be kept updated about services. If you are new in town or a non-member who would like to attend, please call the synagogue office

for an update.
The congregation is excited to welcome Matthew Austerklein as our High Holy Day Hazzan. Cantor Austerklein has a Master of Sacred Music degree, Diploma of Hazzan from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and is currently working on his doctorate. We look forward to joining him in prayer throughout the holidays.

Temple Judea traditionally holds discussions on the afternoon of Yom Kippur about making a difference in our local community. This year, Dr. Debra Mathinos, Chief Programs Officer and Charter School Director, and Ms. Melissa Barlow, Director of Arts and Community Programs, both from The Heights Center, will talk about their current and future programming. The discussion is open to the community and will take place at 5:30 p.m. (See the article in the Our Community section of this issue.) Following the discussion, Yom Kippur services

will continue.

Please refer to Temple Judea's ad in this issue for dates and times of High Holiday services and celebrations. Call the synagogue office for information about becoming a member.

It is not too late to join Rabbi Sack's Introduction to Judaism class which began on August 16. Learn about belief and prayer, Shabbat, holidays and dietary laws, ethics and values, history and modern communities. The course is a prerequisite for people considering conversion.

Chaverot's next book club discussion is on Tuesday, October 19. The book is *All the Rivers* by Dorit Rabinjan. Chaverot's monthly luncheon get togethers, art activities and more will begin in October. Now is a great time to either renew your membership or become a new member of Chaverot. If you have joined Temple Judea within the last calendar year, Chaverot membership is complimentary. Call the synagogue office for more information.

Temple Judea continues to accept

food donations for the Jewish Federation Food Pantry and menstrual products for "CYCLE FORWARD" – a program that distributes menstrual products to low-income women.

There is a barrel by the front door of the shul for cans and boxes of food, and a basket in the lobby for the donations to CYCLE FORWARD. Other social action projects are being planned for the coming year.

Regularly scheduled events:

- Friday evening Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m. Friday evening services are preceded with a wine and cheese reception at 6:15 p.m.
- Saturday morning Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Kiddush lunch
- Morning minyan every Monday at 9:00 a.m.
- Rabbi Sack's monthly lunchtime Torah study sessions the first Thursday of each month at noon at the offices of Myers & Bretholz will begin in October

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

The people of the Community Free Synagogue join the many friends of the Kurtz family who are deeply saddened by the news of Harold Kurtz's passing in early August.

Heartfelt condolences are extended to Paul Meisenberg's family and friends. Paul died in early August and

was buried alongside his parents in Fort Myers.

The C.F.S. doors are open wide to one and all for Days of Awe worship and throughout the year. Please consult the ad in

this issue or visit fortmyerssynagogue.com for details regarding holiday services. These gatherings will also be Zoomed with easy access on the website.

Persons over 18 choosing to bypass vaccinations, and those with special health issues or other heightened concerns are encouraged to use the

Zoom option. (See Rabbi Bruce Diamond's column in this issue for his discussion of this.) Masks will be offered to all those entering the synagogue on the Days of Awe, urging them to be worn at least as a simple courtesy.

Rabbi and Mrs. Diamond invite you to gather by the lake in front of their home in the Forest Country Club at 11:00 a.m. on the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah, Wednesday, September 8 for the shofar sounding, Tashlikh and home-baked treats. This gathering is also a wonderful opportunity for families with younger children.

Sabbath Eve worship is Friday at 7:00 p.m. followed by a social hour. Sabbath eve dinners will resume when medical conditions improve.

The synagogue's home is at the S.W. Florida Masonic Center, 10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers.

Now in its 17th year under Rabbi Diamond's leadership, C.F.S. is open to all free of membership requirements or solicitations. Its events and programs are open to all at no charge.

For more information on C.F.S., visit fortmyerssynagogue.com or email synfree@comcast.net.

Changing your address? Keep L'CHAYIM coming to your home. Email loriramos@jfedi.org.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH
Fort Myers
(239) 433-7708
www.chabadswf.org

Schedule of services for September

Friday Night: Welcoming the Shabbat Services, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Morning: Kabbalah Class 9:00 A.M., Schacharit (Hodu) 10:00 a.m.

High Holiday schedule

Sunday, August 29: Selichot services at 1:30 a.m.

Monday, September 6: Rosh Hashana Evening services at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 7: Rosh Hashana Day 1 Kabbalah / Educational Service 9:00 a.m., Services at 10:00 a.m., Shofar Blowing 11:30 a.m., Children's Program from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Evening Services 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 8 : Rosh Hashana Day 2 Kabbalah / Educational Service 9:00 a.m., Services at 10:00 a.m., Shofar Blowing 11:30 a.m., Children's Program from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Evening Services 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 15: Kol Nidre/Yom Kippur services at 7:00 p.m., Children's Program from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 16: Regular services at 9:00 a.m., Yizkor at 10:45 a.m., Children's Program from 10:00

a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Concluding Yom Kippur services at 5:30 p.m., Break-the-fast meal at 8:04 p.m.

Monday, September 20: Sukkot services at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 21: Sukkot Day 1 Kabbalah 9:00 a.m., Services at 10:00 a.m., Children's Program from 10:00 a.m. to noon, evening service at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 22: Sukkot Day 2 Kabbalah 9:00 a.m. Services at 10:00 a.m., Children's Program from 10:00 a.m. to noon, evening service at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, September 27: Shmini Atzeret services at 7:00 p.m., Rabbi's Birthday Party

Tuesday, September 28: Sukkot / Shmini Atzeret Kabbalah 9:00 a.m., Services at 10:00 a.m., Yizkor at 11:00 a.m., Children's Program from 10:00 a.m. to noon, evening services at 7:00 p.m. followed by a Grand Simchat Torah Party

Wednesday, September 29: Sukkot / Simchat Torah Kabbalah 9:00 a.m., Services at 10:00 a.m., Yizkor at 11:00 a.m., Children's Program from 10:00 a.m. to noon, evening services at 7:00 p.m.

Shana Tova! May you all be written in the Book of Life and have a year infused with all blessing for prosperity, health and all that your heart desires.

**The Jewish Federation Seeks
Volunteers
with Foreign Language Skills.**

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.

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

**Do you speak
Spanish, Russian, French, Creole, Haitian, Mandarin, etc.?
Please share your gift of language with the needy in our area.**



Send your response to Federation Board member Robert Thomas ritritrit@hotmail.com.

We will contact you as needed. Thank you.



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