

L' Shana Tova

FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION

OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES



PUBLISHED BY

L'CHAYIM Jewish Federation Lee and Charlotte Counties

www.JewishFederationLCC.org

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Assisting the neediest in our community with the MARCIA CAN HELP fund

By Alan Isaacs, Federation Executive Director

I received a phone call from Jack Cohen of Sanibel recently. Jack and his late wife Marcia shared their time each year between Omaha and Sanibel until Marcia passed away in 2015. Marcia and Jack had been long-time supporters of social causes and the Jewish communities in Omaha and here in Southwest Florida. Jack is now a full-time resident of Sanibel.

Jack referred to articles about the Federation's Jewish Family Services featured in last month's issue of L'CHAYIM and the impact that they had on him. "I was touched by the story about the aid our Federation provides to needy brethren in the Fort Myers area," he said, and how he knew Marcia would have reacted.

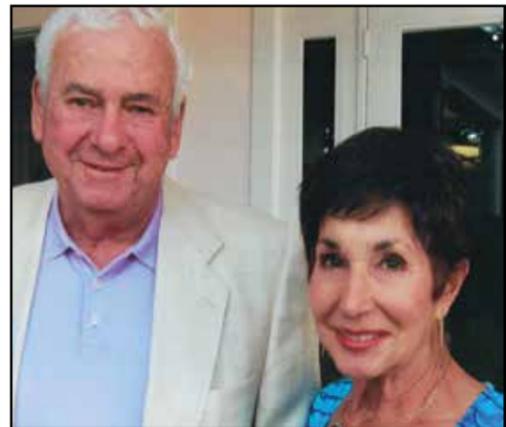
"Marcia volunteered all of her too short life. She served on the board of Temple Bat Yam on Sanibel Island, had various responsibilities at the Jewish Federation of Omaha, and undertook many other projects in Omaha and on Sanibel," said Jack.

"Marcia's most memorable stint was as principal on an Omaha TV station (channel 7) program called *7 Can Help*," Jack continued. "She acted as consumer advocate for people in the community and interviewed organizations dedicated to guiding people to the right solutions for their problems. Marcia was a people person and a good listener, and she enhanced people's lives with her skills."

Our Federation and Jewish Fam-

ily Services currently provide for emergency nutritional needs through our Food Pantry and gift card distribution, but is severely limited in our ability to assist the neediest in our community with 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, z"l, Jack Cohen and the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties have established the MARCIA CAN HELP fund and aim to raise \$28,000 that will be designated exclusively for this purpose. Jack has



Jack and Marcia Cohen

already contributed the initial 50% and we challenge the community to reach 100% of this goal by the end of 2017.

"I know my Marcia would bless this endeavor," said Jack.

For further information or to make a contribution, please call me at 239.481.4449 x7. ▲

SAVE THE DATE

THE BOYS ARE COMING TO TOWN!



SIX13 A Jewish A Cappella Group

Young or old— you'll love this group and love their music.

Everyone is invited — free of cost.

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Underwritten by a generous donor

Sunday, October 22

12:30 p.m.

Temple Beth El

16225 Winkler Rd.

BRIEFS

LOW-COST AIRLINES BOOST TOURISM TO EILAT

Since the start of 2017, the number of international passengers from Europe arriving at Ovda airport near Eilat has risen by 33%.

Most of the flights are operated by Irish carrier Ryanair, Ural Airlines, Russia Airlines, Hungary's Wizz Air, KLM - Air France's Transavia, Finland's Finnair and the UK's Monarch.

The coming winter season is expected to see 88 flights per week, with the addition of Scandinavian carrier SAS, Ukraine Air and Russia's Rossiya FV. (Michal Raz-Chaimovich, *Globes*)

AN ITALIAN JEWISH REBIRTH

While anti-Semitism is on the upswing in many parts of Europe, Judaism and Jews are experiencing a renaissance in Italy.

State support for Jews extends beyond helping to revive communities.

The federal government helped finance the Italian translation of the first volume of the Talmud.

Jewish food, including kosher food, is suddenly chic. Restaurants in Rome's Jewish ghetto are regularly

more briefs on page 18



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The mission of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties is to provide and support philanthropic, educational and social service programs that promote such Jewish values as *Tzedakah benevolence, Tikun Olam repairing the world and K'lal Yisrael taking responsibility for one another*, in order to strengthen and enrich the Jewish community locally, in Israel and throughout the world.

L'CHAYIM

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

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.

The Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties disclaims responsibility or endorsement of the views expressed by the writers and claims by advertisers.

**OCTOBER ISSUE
EDITORIAL DEADLINE:
Tuesday, September 5**

**Grow your business
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through this paper.**

**For more information
or to place an ad, call Jim
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JamesLewin@jfedLCC.org.**

Program notes

The programming year is about to begin and we have some fun and exciting programs already planned with others still in the works! Get your calendars ready to mark some of the coming season's highlights.

Did you know that Israel will be turning 70 years old next spring?! We'll be having programs throughout the year leading up to this birthday milestone, culminating in a big birthday blowout on Sunday, April 15, 2018. Be part of the festivities as we salute Israel as a nation of innovation.



■ Leni Sack

Monday, August 21: An SAT Prep class has begun at the Federation. Our instructors do a great job of preparing students for this college entrance exam. A registration form and information about the class is available in the "Focus on Youth" section in this issue, on our website or by contacting me. It's not too late to register. We will have a makeup class for anyone missing the first and/or second sessions.

Sunday, October 22: Well-known Jewish a cappella group Six13 will perform at Temple Beth El. The event is underwritten by a generous donor and sponsored by the Jewish Federation, Temple Beth El and Temple Judea. There is also an article about the group, as well as an ad in this issue of L'CHAYIM. Be sure to check out the group on YouTube and the Internet. This is definitely a musical treat for all ages.

Sunday, December 10: This year's Community Breakfast will be held at The Landings. A fabulous guest speaker is scheduled to appear. Make sure you read upcoming issues of L'CHAYIM and my weekly email blasts for more information about

this annual event.

January 11- February 13: Our annual Jewish Film Festival of Southwest Florida will again be held at the Regal Belltower Stadium 20 theaters. The committee has been previewing films throughout the summer and will soon make their final selections.

Wednesday, February 21: For the third year in a row, we are partnering with the Alliance for the Arts to sponsor an author event. Laurie Lico Albanese's book, *Stolen Beauty*, combines European Jewish historical fiction with art. It's a captivating story and a perfect choice for our two agencies. We look forward to welcoming Ms. Albanese.

These highlights are only a small smattering of what is planned. JFed Social Club, Jewish Young Professionals, PJ Library and Book Club events will be held throughout the year. Holiday gift bags will be sent to seniors in Lee and Charlotte counties. Plans for the annual campaign events in addition to the Community Breakfast – Pacesetters, Major Gifts and Lion of Judah – are underway.

You can count on Marsha Kistler to have new dances to share on Sundays, when Israeli dancing resumes. Don't forget to bring your mahj card when you come to the Federation on Tuesday afternoons to play. Arthur Sissman, who recently came back from a meeting of the International Genealogy Society, has new ideas to help you trace your ancestry on the first Thursday of each month here at the Federation.

Be sure to check out what is happening each month, not only at the Jewish Federation, but also at the congregations and organizations in our area. Get connected and stay connected to Jewish life in Lee and Charlotte counties.

I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year. Shana Tova! I look forward to spending 5778 with you!▲

From Rozzi Osterman, Federation President



Dear friends,
I hope you had a fun-filled summer. I spent a few weeks in Israel this summer with my sister and her family. Her youngest son Gilad is 21 years old and now an officer in the IDF. Visiting with him and his fellow soldier friends was delightful. They are bright, dedicated and proud of their military service. They are also amazing at organizing, setting up for parties, and cleaning up! It was difficult to see them pack up, put on uniforms, and carry their guns out the door on Sunday mornings.

As we approach the High Holidays, I will, as always, be grateful for the sacrifices that our collective Israeli family endures to maintain our Jewish nation. The Federation is celebrating the 70th anniversary of Israel with programs throughout the coming year. I look forward to sharing our programs with you.

Fondly, Rozzi



**Food
Pantry
Needs**

JEWISH FEDERATION
FOOD PANTRY



Following is a list of staples always in need at the food pantry:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>Peanut butter and jelly</i> | <i>Pasta sauce (pasta, not needed)</i> |
| <i>Rice and beans</i> | <i>Canned vegetables and fruits</i> |
| <i>Cereal</i> | <i>Canned meats</i> |
| <i>Condiments</i> | <i>Toiletries for adults & children</i> |

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

**For a continuously updated
calendar of events, visit
www.JewishFederationLCC.org.**

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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.

YOUR SUPPORT

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A LOVED ONE

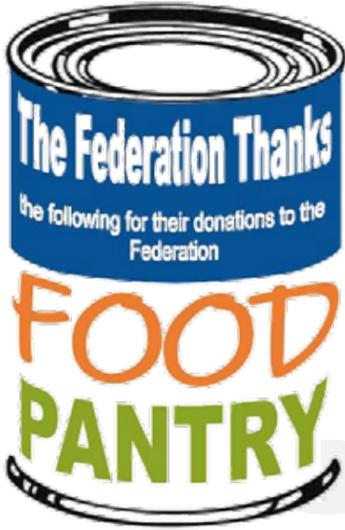
Share your
MITZVAH

Promote
KINDNESS

Strengthen & enrich
JEWISH COMMUNITY

This year please consider making an additional campaign contribution in honor or in 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 our community.

GENEROUS DONORS:



Anonymous Angels
Temple Beth El
Temple Judea
Mellow Mah Jongg Ladies
Israeli Dancers
Andrea & Gene Sipe
Sandi Falk
Jim & JoAnn Lewin
Bonnie Raitt
Howard Silverman
Kathy Toll
Shalom Life Center
Phyllis Silver Henkel
Family of Linda Bonito
Ruth Lefberg
Mort Naiman



TRIBUTES

In memory of Helene Kramer
from Sandi Falk
from JoAnn & Jim Lewin

OBITUARY

Harriet Flo Beylin: The leadership and staff of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties extend condolences to the family of Harriet Flo Beylin of Fort Myers, who passed away on Wednesday, July 19, 2017. She was 91 years old. Harriet was born on April 19, 1926 in Cleveland, Ohio, the daughter of Sylvia (Pickus) and Phillip Meyers. She leaves behind her daughter, Stacy B. Prater of Fort Myers, a number of extended family members, and a multitude of others who were proud to call her a friend.

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

SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

**LUNCH
BUNCH**

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

UPCOMING DATES

Thursday, September 14th, 12 PM
Temple Beth Shalom
702 SE 24th Ave., Cape Coral
(rsvp by Sept. 11th)

Thursday, October 19th, 12 PM
Community Free Synagogue
10868 Metro Pkwy, Fort Myers
(rsvp by Oct. 16th)

Tuesday, November 14th, 12 PM
Shalom Life Center
13411 Shire Lane, Fort Myers
(rsvp by Nov. 10th)



RSVP to:
Jodi Cohen
239.481.4449, #6 OR
jodicohen@jfedlcc.org

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

www.jewishfederationlcc.org

HOW THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES SERVES



Local Jewish Education and Culture

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



Overseas

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



Local Seniors Services

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



Local Case Management Services

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

Local Emergency Services

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



Local Community Services

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

Jewish Community Foundation

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



**Joseph Horowitz Israel Travel
Grants Available**

The Joseph Horowitz Israel Travel Grant is available through the Community Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties. The grant may be used for travel to Israel to participate in programs that are volunteer or educational in nature. Our hope is that these programs will enhance Jewish knowledge and identity in preparation for participation in American Jewish life. This grant is for Jewish residents of either county who are 25 years old or younger and can demonstrate a financial need. Academic standing and community involvement may also be considered. For more information or an application, please visit our website at www.JewishFederationLCC.org or contact the Federation at 239-481-4449, ext. 4 or email loriramos@jfedlcc.org.



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Six13: The boys are coming to town!

By Leni Sack

Six13 is a groundbreaking, six-man a capella vocal band that brings an unprecedented style of Jewish music to the stage. Their songs range from hip-hop dance tracks to rock anthems. The members of the New York City-based group sound like a full band – while using nothing but their voices.

Six13 will be performing in our community on Sunday, October 22 at 12:30 p.m. at Temple Beth El. This special concert is underwritten by a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous, and sponsored by the Jewish Federation, Temple Beth El and Temple Judea.

Six13 is a national phenomenon both on the Internet (with over 8 million views on YouTube) and in tradi-

tional media. The group has been featured in national television and press, including *The Today Show*, *The View*, CBS, CNN, *Huffington Post*, *Time* magazine and more. They have performed at the White House and are three-time finalists in casting for primetime TV's *The Sing-Off*. Music from their seven award-winning albums has been adapted by choirs worldwide and played on mainstream radio across the globe. Bruno Mars liked their Passover version of his song so much, he posted it on his own Facebook page.

Six13 is among the top Jewish music artists on iTunes and their songs have been chosen for ten "best-of" compilations to date. They have received distinctions and accolades from Jewish organizations like the National

Council of Young Israel and *Moment* magazine, and awards from musical organizations like the Harmony Sweepstakes and the Contemporary A Cappella Society of America.

Six13 has made appearances

around the world for millions to rave reviews and standing ovations. And they will be in Fort Myers performing for us!

Don't miss this incredible event. It's free! It's for all ages! It's for us! ▲



Senior Lunch Program update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach Coordinator, and Helene Glocer

There is an excitement at the monthly senior lunches, a buzz in the air, as people walk in and greet friends, new and old. We like it to being at the popular kids' table. It is definitely where the action is every month.

Helene Glocer, one of the lunch founders, was struck by something else at the July lunch: people coming together for the first time in many years. For instance, one volunteer found her

children's Hebrew teacher from 20 years ago, and Helene met the lawyer who helped her close on her house 32 years ago.

Whether you're making new friends, catching up with old friends you haven't seen in many years, or finding people from the same place "up north" who have friends in common with you, the human connection is an incredible experience for both the volunteers and the seniors. There is a palpable joy

in the room and we have come to think of the Senior Lunch Bunch program as a Lovefest – with food!

In July we had a speaker from the Lee County Sheriff's office who talked about personal safety. Previous programs have included Jewish-themed games, art, music, and programs on the holidays. The location changes every month as the lunch travels around to local synagogues.

We invite you to join us – the

lunches are free and rides are available. The next one is Thursday, September 14 at noon at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral. You can make a reservation by calling Jodi Cohen at the Jewish Federation at 239.481.4449 x6 or via email at jodicohen@jfedlcc.org. Please let us know if you need a ride or can give someone else a ride. If you are willing and able to help set up or clean up, please contact Sherri Zucker at 239.980.5760 or sherriz62@aol.com. ▲



L'Shana Tova

Karol & Steven Karpf

L'Shana Tova Umetukah

Toni & Steve Goodman

L'Shana Tova

Judith Yevick

L'Shana Tova

Harry Shapiro

Happy New Year

Jacob Rubin & Family

L'Shana Tova

Kathy Rena & Joel Shapiro

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.

Naomi Bloom & Ron Wallace

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.

Robin Kessler & Ray Epstein

ISRAELI FOLK DANCING

WEEKLY ISRAELI DANCING

Dancing will resume in the fall of 2017

All ages (10 to 96) are welcome to join us. All levels of dance experience are welcome. Wear comfortable shoes, bring a water bottle

BRING A FRIEND!
See you Sundays.

RSVP a must by Fridays at noon
to Marsha Kistler
marshatemple2012@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED TO LABEL L'CHAYIM

JOIN US for coffee, bagels and the simple satisfaction that comes from meeting and making friends with other volunteers, as we help keep thousands of local readers informed about local, national and international Jewish news.

Call 481.4449 ext. 3 to add your name to the phone list. Each month we will call to confirm the mailing date and you can let us know if you are available to help label L'CHAYIM.

Time: 9:30 A.M.
Tuesday, September 26, 2017
Monday, October 23, 2017

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

Remembering Helene Kramer, Federation's first Executive Director

By Carolyn Gora, Randy Kashi and Sheila Laboda

It is with great sorrow that we inform you of the passing of Helene Kramer, the first Executive Director of our Jewish Federation, on June 23, 2017.

In the mid-1980s the Lee County Federation was in its infancy. The Jewish community was growing and needed a professional to guide us. Helene was the perfect person to take it to the next level. Helene's impact on our community helped shape today's Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties. So many people have fond memories and stories. Below are quotes of some of the people who worked with her.

As the first President of the Federation, Sheila Laboda worked with Helene on a daily basis. She stated that, "The Jewish Federation of Lee County was incorporated in 1984. During the second year of my presidency, a group of moms with young children approached me about having a Federation-sponsored Jewish day camp. I remember having lunch with them and stating, 'If you want to have a day camp and are willing to become the committee for it, the Federation board will do whatever possible to provide funding toward the camp.' There was no opposition.

I became aware that the Sarasota Federation already had a successful summer day camp. Its Program Director was Helene Kramer. After a phone call to Helene, a group of us drove to Sarasota to gather any information relative to running a non-denominational day camp in Fort Myers. That delegation consisted of me, Carolyn Gora, Lori Kantor, Lois Geisler, Terri Eisenfeld, Pam Arkin, Peggy Freedman and

Barbara Carlin. Shortly following that meeting, Helene was hired to become our Executive Director."

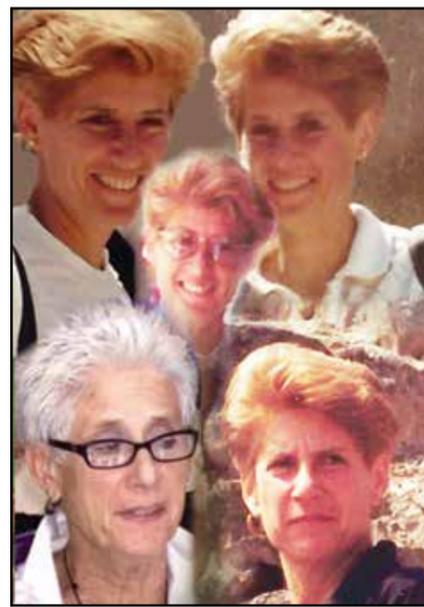
Dr. Larry Eisenfeld, Former Campaign Chairman and Past President, said that, "Helene came to Fort Myers at a crucial time for the growth of our Jewish community. Sheila Laboda had been the volunteer President and chief cook and bottle washer for several years. She brought us to the point where we needed to hire a full-time paid professional to continue our growth. Helene entered our community and was an immediate good fit. Under her leadership we began an exponential growth. Many new programs were added to the Federation. Our campaign more than doubled during her administration. I was fortunate to be the Campaign Chairman during some of those years, when we brought in nationally-acclaimed speakers and dignitaries who spoke to crowds in the hundreds. We also had our first Federation-sponsored Bar/Bat Mitzvah Mission to Israel in conjunction with our partner communities. We were able to get the Fort Myers school calendar committee to have a "holiday day" for one of our High Holidays, and to excuse Jewish children from having tests or homework required on those days. This effort now continues every year by our Federation representatives to maintain that excused time from the School Board.

"Helene was a gentle giant. She stood her ground firmly for the battles that were necessary to fight and win, but was respectful and wise in making those choices. She expanded the link to our partner communities and to Israel. She was an integral part in the

expansion of our Jewish identity and recognition in Lee and Charlotte counties. I am happy to say I had the honor to work with her during her time as Executive Director of the Federation. She helped pave the way for future Executive Directors – Annette Goodman, Dan Berman and Alan Isaacs – to continue our growth as a Jewish community. She will be greatly missed, but not forgotten."

Guy Whitesman, Past President, recalls, "Helene instigated the first Lee County Jewish Federation Mission to Israel during my year as President. It was in May/June of 1992. I was a little skeptical as to whether we could attract enough people to make it work given the time and monetary commitment. She was adamant that it would enhance our members' commitments to the Federation and Israel. Helene was right, and with her marketing skills we filled a tour bus with our members. My wife Ilene joined us after a day or two into the mission, after giving birth to Joey a few weeks prior. Helene arranged for her favorite tour guide in Israel, 'Peach.'"

Terri Eisenfeld remembered that, "Helene Kramer came to our community at a crucial time for the growth of our Jewish Federation. She had been part of the professional staff of the Sarasota Federation, and when contacted by Sheila Laboda for help in the startup of our Camp Genesis, she was more than happy to give us any help we needed in that endeavor. Shortly after that she was recruited and became the first paid professional of our Federation. Helene was a real go-getter and jumped in with both feet. She was a fresh face, and with her experience at a



Helene Kramer

much bigger Federation, she had many new ideas to help us grow.

"One of her ideas involved me personally. She asked me to be the first President of the Women's Division of Federation. Her idea was to get more women involved and to understand the importance of making their own gift in addition to a family gift. While this seemed like a stretch for me, Helene helped me every step of the way and tapped some leadership qualities in me that I didn't even know existed. I am very thankful for that. Helene was a master at getting people in our community to step up and get involved. That quality helped our Federation grow.

"During her tenure as Executive Director, Helene organized a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Mission that was part of a larger mission. Helene handled everything – any missteps, informational needs, anything to make the trip memorable and easy. All that was required of us was to enjoy and learn. It was our family's first trip to Israel, and one we will never forget."

Carol Glazer remembers, "I began as the Russian Resettlement Coordinator... *continued on next page*

A REFORM JEWISH CONGREGATION SERVING SANIBEL, CAPTIVA, FORT MYERS & SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Bat Yam Temple of the Islands

2017 – HIGH HOLY DAYS WORSHIP – 5778

RABBI STEPHEN FUCHS will officiate at Bat Yam High Holy Days services. He comes to Bat Yam after pulpits in West Hartford, CT, Nashville, TN and Columbia, MD. He has authored several books and articles, lectured internationally, and is a strong proponent of inter-faith relations. **GREGORY WATSON** will serve as Cantorial Soloist. He has been the cantorial soloist with Temple Beth El in Pensacola, FL, as well as a soloist, chorister and chorus master with the Pensacola Opera. **ABIGAIL ALLISON** will provide piano accompaniment. All services are held in the Fellowship Hall of the **SANIBEL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 2050 PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL. NO TICKETS ARE REQUIRED** for services, but donations are welcome. For more information, visit **BATYAM.ORG**.

Selichot

EVENING SERVICE Saturday, September 16 at 7:30pm

Rosh Hashanah

EVENING SERVICE Wednesday, September 20 at 7:30pm

Sermon topic: *Why did Rosh Hashanah Become so Important?*

MORNING SERVICE Thursday, September 21 at 10:00am

Sermon topic: *The Binding of Isaac: Our Most Troubling Story*

TASHLICH (casting out of sins) following the morning service, location TBA

Yom Kippur

KOL NIDRE Friday, September 29 at 7:30pm • Sermon topic: *The Magic Word for Repentance*

MORNING SERVICE Saturday, September 30 at 10:00am • Sermon topic: *Jonah's Message to Us*

CONGREGANTS' HOUR following the morning service • featuring reflections from three congregants

SERVICE OF MUSIC & MEDITATION 3:00pm • featuring cellist Susannah Kelly and pianist Abigail Allison

AFTERNOON SERVICE 4:00pm • includes a discussion of the Book of Jonah, the Yom Kippur afternoon Haftorah •

Yizkor/Memorial service • Sermon topic: *Where Are Our Relatives Now?* • Ne'ilah/Closing service

BREAK-THE-FAST 6:00pm in the Church Hall • Reservations required, contact Marcia Rudin at marciarudin@aol.com

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year to our Bat Yam family and friends, whether in SWFL or elsewhere!

continued from previous page

tor. When we moved into our first office on Presidential Court, my title changed to Administrative Assistant. In 1992, I was made the first Program Director. Helene provided me free reign to design any programs as long as I could figure out how to keep the participant cost low and find sponsors to pay for them, as I really never had a budget to do anything. After the move to Presidential Court, programs included Yiddish Club, bridge, yoga, the first mini book fair, and summer kids' programs such as magic and karate.

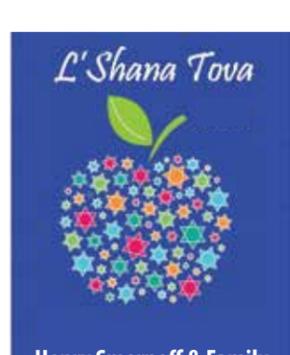
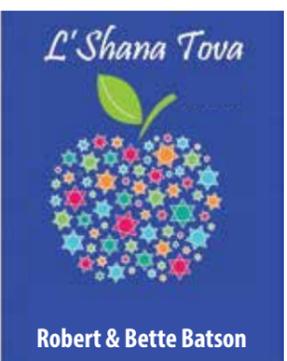
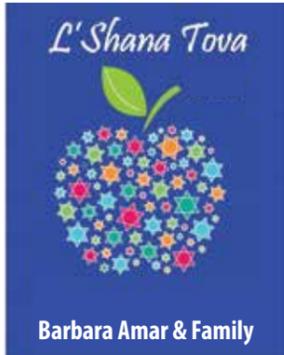
"The Russian Resettlement Project led to the formation of the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties. Initially, three Russian families settled in Lee County. Subsequent to their arrival, the majority of requests were to help bring family members to join Russians who came to the United States back in the '70s and '80s and settled in Charlotte County. We resettled four more families in Charlotte County and two more in Lee County. Only three of the families did not remain in Southwest Florida. Those that left went to Chicago and Los Angeles to be with

the Russian communities there.

"Basically, 'no' was not in Helene's vocabulary and no idea was too crazy if more than one member of the Federation wanted it."

Rozzi Osterman, our current Co-President, recalls her first impression of Fort Myers as follows: "In 1993, my husband John was offered a position in Fort Myers and we needed to make sure there was a Jewish presence in town before we could make a decision. We entered the Federation office and were greeted by a petite, feisty and very determined Helene Kramer. Her energy was almost overwhelming and she wholeheartedly convinced us that Fort Myers was the perfect place to raise a Jewish family. I joined the Federation board and my family has been active ever since. Each Executive Director has added a new dimension to our Jewish community. Helene opened doors for our future, and gifted our Jewish community with her energy and vision."

Helene left a large imprint in our community, and her legacy is the success our Federation enjoys today.▲



THE COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE WELCOMES YOU!

Selihot: 8:00PM Saturday September 16

Preceded by Havdallah and a Melaveh Malkah at 7:30 PM

Rosh Hashanah:

7:00 PM Wednesday September 20

10:00 AM Thursday September 21

4:00 PM September 21: Tashlikh and Rabbi's Open House

Yom Kippur:

7:00 P M Friday September 29

Saturday September 30

10:00 AM Morning Worship

2:30 PM Study with the Rabbi

4:00 PM Minhah, Yizkor and Ne'ilah

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

Send an email to lenibsack@jfedlcc.org



ROSH HASHANAH GIFT BAGS



VOLUNTEER to help pack and deliver Rosh Hashanah gift bags

to the Jewish residents in our community living in independent, assisted living and nursing homes in Lee & Charlotte counties. The residents enjoy not only the contents of the gift bags, they love being visited by the community members who deliver them.

Student volunteers can earn community service hours.

- ♦ Bags will be packed on Wednesday, September 13 at 11:00 a.m.
- ♦ Bags will be delivered on Sunday, September, 17
- ♦ Volunteers can pick up the bags from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Other pick-up and delivery times can be arranged if needed.)

This is an opportunity for all family members to get involved. Seniors love having young children visit. From babies to bubbes, this is a mitzvah the whole family can do together.

RSVP lenibsack@jfedlcc.org or 239.481.4449 x3

What better way to start the new year !

Temple Judea welcomes sh'lichah to build connection with Israel

By Rabbi Marc Sack

For her tour of duty in the Israeli Air Force, Zohar Ben Hamu was stationed at the IAF's School of Technical Professions where she worked with soldiers-at-risk, teenagers who were new to Israel or who were disciplined for an infraction. One soldier, just released from military prison, came to her office, sat down and said, "I've failed with everyone else. It will be no different with you." Zohar responded, "It will be different because when we are finished working together, you will be at the top of the class." The soldier soon realized that, unlike others, she would not give up on him. He graduated his program receiving the Certificate of Excellence. It was through her work with soldiers-at-risk that Zohar was drawn to the field of social work.

Later, while doing a field placement for her university studies, she worked with students with learning disabilities, helping them do homework assignments and prepare for exams. One girl from Ethiopia believed she would always fail. She called Zohar every time she got a good grade to tell her how surprised she was. But Zohar was not surprised. She believed in her students and helped them achieve.

Zohar Ben Hamu arrives in Fort Myers at the end of the August to be the sh'lichah, the "emissary" of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) to serve at Temple Judea. Her mission is fostering a strong connection with Israel among the children and adults of the congregation and the greater Lee County Jewish community.

Raised in a Moroccan Jewish fam-

ily in Beer Sheva, Zohar was inspired to be a sh'lichah by an older sister who served at a summer camp in Canada. Her sister came back with a strong sense of service to the Jewish people and Zohar wanted this experience too. The youngest of three girls, Zohar's family is close-knit. She spends Shabbat with her nieces and nephews, taking them to the playground or baking cookies. For holidays, she plans special outings. Recently, for Shavuot, she took the children to a moshav where they rode on tractors and prepared a holiday dairy meal.

Zohar brings this same experiential approach to her work, conveying content in creative ways. She plans activities that are both fun and educational.

More than building confidence and self-respect, Zohar also teaches leadership skills. She currently oversees an afterschool program on a moshav where she teaches teenagers how to prepare activities for younger children. She guides them to imagine how the children will enjoy and learn from the activity.

For another program, she led the teenagers to develop a questionnaire for the entire community about programs they would participate in. The students then published an article in the moshav newsletter with the results. Along the way, Zohar taught the skills of community leadership.

What Zohar wants most to teach about life in Israel is how people thrive when they are connected to community. In one of her social work field placements, she served on a moshav where people were not showing up for communal events. Zohar conducted one-

on-one interviews with every member of the moshav to hear their concerns. From the information she collected, she developed new youth activities and engaged the adults in supporting the teenagers. At the beginning of this project, four people came to a moshav Chanukah party. By the end, two hundred attended the Yom HaAtzmaut celebration.

Zohar keeps a busy schedule, attending class at the Ashkelon Academic College in addition to her work on the moshav. Still, she finds time to have fun. When not with family, Zohar can be found at a soccer match, cheering on her Beer Sheva home team that won the Israeli soccer championship this year, hiking with friends, or attending a Zumba class.



Zohar Ben Hamu

Zohar Ben Hamu brings her energy, creativity, love of Israel and big smile to Temple Judea and the greater Jewish community. The congregation will host a series of welcome activities when all are encouraged to meet her. ▲

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Religious School and Community Open House
August 27, 2017 (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM)

Community Meet and Greet Open House
September 10, 2017 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

Marc Sack - Rabbi
Liz Singer – Director of Congregational Learning
Avi Gev – Music Director
Zohar Ben Hamu – Sh'lichah
Representatives From:
Chaverot
Hazak
Preschool
Temple Judea Board

Temple Judea
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Shabbat Morning Services and Kiddush Luncheon
Tikkun Olam/Social Action
Israeli Sh'lichah

Want to learn more, but can't make the open houses?
Please call the office to set up an appointment!



Holocaust Museum & Education Center of SWFL welcomes its new Executive Director, Susan L. Suarez

The Museum has important news to share with you. This summer, after 14 years of dedicated service and leadership with the Museum, Executive Director Amy Snyder resigned to accept a new post as Director of Education Programs for Champions For Learning, the Education Foundation of Collier County. In her new role, Amy will focus on development of programs to support teachers throughout Collier County, including Holocaust Studies programs. We are grateful to Amy for her many contributions in bringing the Museum and our education programs to their present level of success. Under Amy's leadership, our education programs expanded to a six-county area in Southwest Florida, impacting over 175,000 students in grades K-12 as well as college/university. We wish Amy

the best, and all of us will miss her!

Please join us in welcoming our new Executive Director, Susan L. Suarez, who joined our Museum team on Monday, August 14. We are so pleased to have her on board, as she brings a wealth of experience to her new position.

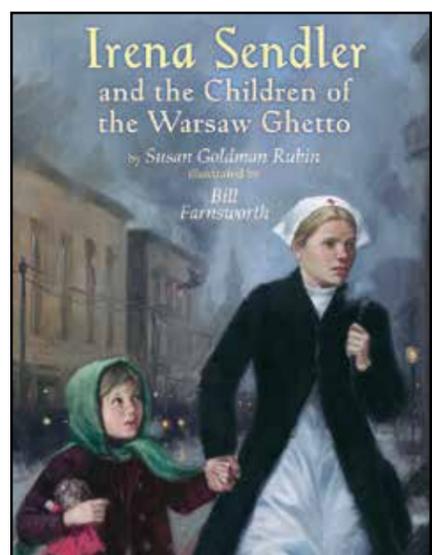
Susan founded Suarez & Associates, a consulting firm dedicated to helping nonprofit organizations improve their fundraising, marketing, strategy and governance. She has 30 years of nonprofit experience as both an executive and consultant. Her experience includes serving as Executive Director of Eden Autism Services Florida, CEO of the Community Foundation of Collier County, Vice President of Development and Marketing for the Community Foundation Silicon Valley, and Assistant Executive Director of the American Red Cross in Palo Alto, California.

As a consultant, Susan has worked with dozens of nonprofit organizations throughout Southwest Florida, and community foundations throughout the United States. We know you will enjoy meeting Susan as she shares her plans to move the Museum forward in the years ahead. This fall, we are dis-

playing our wonderful *Painting the Irena Sendler Story* exhibit with a new twist. Over the past year, as this story was told in many 5th grade classrooms across Collier County, the students wrote haiku poems about this real-life wonder woman. A selection of these poems will be included in the redesigned panels that accompany the paintings. The artwork was created by artist/illustrator Bill Farnsworth for the children's book by author Susan Goldman Rubin, *Irena Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto*. *Painting the Irena Sendler Story* will be on display from September 5 through December 18.

We invite you to learn more about Irena during a special screening of the film *Irena Sendler: In the Name of Their Mothers*. It will be shown at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 22 at St. Agnes Parish Center, 7775 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples. The screening is open to the public, free of charge, and co-sponsored by the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue of Collier County and GenShoah of SWFL. RSVP to the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue at cjdialogue@naples.net.

As you may know, the Museum was recently named "Best Museum



– Collier County” by the Best of the Gulfshore 2017 readers’ poll in *Gulfshore Life Magazine*. The Museum also received its third annual “Certificate of Excellence” from TripAdvisor “for the consistent achievement of high ratings from travelers.” We are so excited and honored for the award and recognition, and thank all of you for your support of the Museum and its programs over the years. We hope you will pay us a visit again soon! ▲



Artist Bill Farnsworth discusses his work at the Museum

Mellow Mah Jongg

Each Tuesday afternoon, an open session of Mah Jongg is held at the Jewish Federation.

Players must be at least advanced beginners, as no lessons are given.

DAY: Tuesdays, 12:30~3:30 P.M.
FEE: \$1 per week



for more information call
Rona Strausberg at 239.949.9003

Studying family history brings more than just historical knowledge, it builds relationships. Learning the stories behind names and dates teaches a personal history that explains more than just how each person came to be. **EVERYONE WELCOME.**

Jewish Genealogy SIG (Special Interest Group)
Next meeting: **Thursday, September 14**
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

LEARN HOW TO BEGIN RESEARCH INTO YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY OR GET HELP FINDING NEW STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE THE SEARCH YOU HAVE ALREADY STARTED.

There is no cost to attend. **RSVPs are a must to Arthur at genresearch13@yahoo.com**
Meetings are held at the Jewish Federation • 9701 Commerce Center Ct. • Fort Myers 33908



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For more information and High Holiday tickets, please call the Temple Judea Office at 239-433-0201

www.tjswfl.org

Selichot

Saturday, September 16
9:00pm Reception, Concert featuring Dr. Jonathan Daitch and Service

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 20
6:00pm Family Service – Open to community
6:30 pm Congregational Service

Thursday, September 21
9:30am Congregational Service and Child Care
10:30am Youth Service
4:30pm Tashlich

Friday, September 22
9:30am Congregational Family Service

Kol Nidre

Friday, September 29
6:30pm Family Service – Open to community
7:00 pm Congregational Service

Yom Kippur

Saturday, September 30
9:30am Congregational Service and Child Care
10:30am Youth Service
4:30pm Afternoon Discussion
5:30 pm Minchah/N'ilah/Havdalah
7:41pm Shofar Blowing

Sukkot

Thursday, October 5
9:30am Service

Friday, October 6
6:30pm Shabbat Sukkot
Consecration, Sukkot Dinner

Wednesday, October 11
5:30pm Spaghetti Dinner
& Erev Simchat Torah

Thursday, October 12
9:30 am Sh'mini Atzeret/Simchat Torah
(includes Yizkor)

All services conducted by Rabbi Marc Sack

Second labels – the best-kept secret

By The Wine Whisperer

We all want to enjoy great wine, but not all of us want to fork over a mortgage payment for a big Bordeaux or Super Tuscan. Fortunately, there are less expensive alternatives.

I suppose there are people who drink major bottles as an everyday matter. A thousand dollars to them is like ten dollars to the rest of us. Just a matter of scale and proportion. But those people don't live at our house.

We divide our meager collection into maybe three parts:

- ◆ Everyday drinking wines, like the corks we pop when we get home from work after a bad day...or any kind of day. These are generally under \$20-\$25 a bottle.
- ◆ Somewhat special wines that we'll enjoy if some part of our lives has gone exceptionally well that day or week. Something like we signed a new client.
- ◆ The collectibles...wines we've purchased over the years that have increased insanely in value. These we open only to celebrate anniversaries, births, or in the company of people who open similar bottles for us.

But it's still possible to find and enjoy high-quality wines made by globally famous wineries. They're called second and even third labels.

World-class wineries such as Chateau Margaux or Screaming Eagle carefully sort their grapes by hand during harvest. Since grapes don't ripen evenly in bunches, this is a painstaking and laborious process. The first quality grapes are selected for the major label.

The remaining grapes are sorted again, and the best ones are retained and vinified for the second label, which is sold at a fraction of the price. For example, a bottle of 2005 Chateau Margaux, a Grand Cru Bordeaux, costs around \$700. Their second label, Pavillon Rouge du Chateau Margaux, is going for about \$170. Not cheap, but not completely outrageous.

Here's a bit of help for when you're ready to buy something really nice, but not insanely priced, for that birthday, anniversary or holiday.

The most highly-prized and expensive Bordeaux wines have second labels, such as the above-mentioned *Pavillon Rouge du Chateau Margaux*, *Carruades de Lafite*, *Les Forts de LaTour*, and *La Mission Haut Brion*. Other well-known Bordeaux produc-

ers offer second labels such as *Echo de Lynch-Bages*. Not to be outdone, Italian premium winemaker Sassicaia offers *Guado al Tasso*, which is priced at a fraction of their top-end wine.

In America, things are a bit different. Wineries generally make several wines in many price categories. There is Caymus, which is a reasonably priced California Cabernet at about \$65. Then there's Caymus "Special Selection," which will set you back over \$250.

The Italians are especially good at this, so watch for these comparative bargains, and sample a few on those occasions that call for something a bit more special.

Until then, here's just the kind of second label to look for:

Le Volte dell'Ornellaia Red Blend Tuscany 2015 (\$30) – The top wine from Ornellaia sells for around \$250 a bottle, so this is one of their value labels...and it is a value. Dark ruby color in the glass with interesting aromas of milk chocolate and faint pine. Dark red plum on the palate, along with wet stones and bright mixed fruit. Very drinkable young, and great wine for the price. WW 90

Also from Ornellaia, there's **Le Serre Nuove (\$75)** – a bit higher priced, but this wine has outscored even the top Bordeaux in competitive

tastings for many years. Medium ruby color with lots of red berries and fine, silky tannins. WW 95

Lucente 2014 (\$18) – is a great value. This "super Tuscan" is a blend of Sangiovese and Merlot, and the new oak aging gives it black cherry, vanilla and coffee aromas and flavors. WW 90

Ask the Wine Whisperer

A restaurant we went to had "Draft Wine" on the list. I had never heard of it so I ordered a cab/syrah/merlot blend called Triple Threat. The waiter didn't know what draft was or the winery this came from. It was surprisingly pleasant. Have you heard of draft wines before? – Marna L., Seattle

Some very prestigious wineries are now putting their wine in kegs for use in restaurant by-the-glass service. This preserves the wine much better than leaving opened half-bottles standing around, and does not affect quality. I wouldn't be hesitant to order a draft wine anywhere it's offered.▲
Jerry Greenfield is The Wine Whisperer. He is Creative Director of Greenfield Advertising Group, and Wine Director of the international Direct Cellars wine club. His book, Secrets of the Wine Whisperer, is now available through his website. Read his other writings at www.winewhisperer.com.



■ Jerry Greenfield

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- ◆ The collectibles...wines we've purchased over the years that have increased insanely in value. These we open only to celebrate anniversaries, births, or in the company of people who open similar bottles for us.



Moroccan-Inspired Tzimmes – recipe by Dalia Hemed

Rosh Hashanah is the celebration of the Jewish New Year. It's a very important holiday on the Jewish calendar. It is the first of what we call the High Holidays (or High Holy Days), a ten-day period that ends with Yom Kippur – the holiest day of the Jewish year. On Rosh Hashanah, Jews from all over the world celebrate God's creation of the world. Rosh Hashanah is two days long, and it usually occurs during the month of September.

Food is an important part of Rosh Hashanah. Many special foods are included in a traditional Rosh Hashanah meal as blessings. Sweet foods are eaten to symbolize our hope for a "sweet new year." We enjoy "new fruit," a fruit that has recently come into season but have not yet had the opportunity to enjoy this year (often a pomegranate). The head of a fish is sometimes served to remind us to be "like the head and not the tail" – so we'll be leaders, not followers. The fish also symbolizes the translation of Rosh Hashanah, which means "Head of the Year" in Hebrew.

Pretty, symbolic bread called challah is baked, sweetened with raisins and braided into a round shape. Apples are dipped in honey, again symbolizing sweetness. All of these traditions are important, because they help to connect us to the deeper meaning of the Rosh Hashanah holiday.

There are certain dishes that make an appearance on our Rosh Hashanah table every year. I'm sure your family has its own favorite traditional foods – you know, the dishes that really make it a holiday (no matter which holiday you celebrate!). For my family, it wouldn't be Rosh Hashanah without fish, Perfect

Chicken Soup, couscous, Apple Honey Cake, and Tzimmes. These recipes have been a part of our family celebrations for many years.

Tzimmes is a traditional Ashkenazi Jewish dish made with sweet root vegetables – carrots, sweet potatoes. Sometimes dried fruits are added, like raisins or dried plums. The word tzimmes is a Yiddish expression for "making a fuss" over something, probably because making tzimmes is a bit of a fussy dish... with all of those root veggies, there is lots of peeling and chopping involved. Tzimmes is often served as a side dish for Rosh Hashanah.

This year, I'm introducing a different type of tzimmes – a Moroccan-inspired tzimmes. I thought it would be fun to create a "fusion" tzimmes, expanding the European carrot base to include other root vegetables – beets, parsnips, turnips – and cook them with Moroccan spices to bring out the true flavors. Then finish the dish with golden raisins, dried plums and a honey glaze.

I peeled and chopped up carrots cut into round shapes symbolizing the continuing cycle of the year and seasons, and using golden, orange, yellow and white colored veggies. In Sephardic holiday tradition, golden-colored foods signify abundance, so I stuck with a golden color palette for this dish.

I used my basic recipe for making tzimmes, but sweetened it with honey and orange juice, and spiced it up with the exotic scent of Moroccan spice mix

Ingredients:

- 8 carrots (1 lb) peeled and cut into 1-inch rounds
- 1 lb sweet potatoes
- 1 lb beets

- 1 lb parsnips
- 1 lb turnips
- 6 oz dried golden raisins (1 1/4 cups)
- 1/4 cups orange jam
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1 1/2 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 12 oz pitted prunes (3 cups)
- 1 tbs Moroccan spice mix

Moroccan Spice Mix:

- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 1 tablespoon coriander
- 1 tablespoon granulated garlic
- 1 teaspoon fennel seeds
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper

Directions:

- ▶ Place carrots, turnips, beets, parsnips on the bottom of a large heavy pot.
- ▶ Pour raisins on top.
- ▶ Add olive oil, salt and black pepper.
- ▶ In a medium bowl, whisk together orange juice, orange jam, honey, sugar, cinnamon and Moroccan spice mix. Pour mixture over the fruits and vegetables in the pot.
- ▶ Add chicken broth to the pot, covering the vegetables halfway. Heat pot over medium high till it begins to simmer. Stir the ingredients once gently.



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

- ▶ Reduce heat to a gentle but constant simmer. Cover the pot.
- ▶ After 30 minutes, open the pot and gently stir again. Place pitted prunes on top of the simmering ingredients.
- ▶ Cover pot. Continue to cook on lowest heat for another 15 minutes, until all the vegetables are tender and prunes have warmed and softened. Don't cook too long, or the prunes will dissolve – it will make a nice sauce for the tzimmes, but it won't look so pretty on the table.
- ▶ Serve warm as a side dish to a festive holiday meal.

Wishing you all a Happy and Sweet Rosh Hashanah!▲

Look for Chef Dalia Hemed's recipes each month in the pages of L'CHAYIM.



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Saturday, September 16
8:00 pm Dessert Reception
9:00 pm Selichot Service

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 20
7:30 pm Evening Service

Thursday, September 21

10:00 am Morning Service
10:30 am Jr. Congregation Service
12:30 pm Tashlich at Lakes Park
Be our guest for lunch, families welcome

Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day

Friday, September 22
10:00 am Morning Service

Cemetery Memorial Service

Temple Beth El Garden of Memories
Sunday, September 24
10:00 am Service

Yom Kippur

Friday, September 29
7:30 pm Kol Nidre Evening Service

Saturday, September 30

10:00 am Morning Service
10:30 am Jr. Congregation Service
5:00 pm Musical Meditation Concert
5:30 pm Yizkor
6:00 pm Mincha/Neilah
Followed by Break-the-Fast

Sukkot

Thursday, October 5
11:00 am Sukkot Festival Service
followed by lunch in the sukkah

Simchat Torah

Wednesday, October 11
5:30 pm Simchat Torah Dinner & Celebration

Thursday, October 12

10:00 am Yizkor Service

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Racial and ethnic strife backgrounds Crown Heights murder mystery

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

Conviction, by Julia Dahl.
Minotaur. 320 pages.
Hardcover \$25.99.

Conviction, the latest entry in Julia Dahl's Rebekah Roberts series, is a powerful exploration of how unjustifiable convictions occur and what the consequences are. It also evokes the spiritual overtone of the title word. The storytelling mode is particularly effective, mixing sections told in the main character's voice with other sections that enter the minds and emotions of other important characters.

It's all about perspective. Something horrible happens in Brooklyn during the summer of 1992. A black mother and father, along with one of their foster children, are murdered in their Crown Heights home. Another foster child is convicted of the crime,

a false confession wrung from him via despicable police interrogation.

The narrative moves back and forth, alternating between two timelines. One describes the sequence of events as they happened in 1992. The other reveals events of 2014, especially those that follow journalist Rebekah Roberts, who is sparked into action by a letter from fortyish prison inmate DeShawn Perkins. He claims that he has been in jail for 22 years for a crime he didn't commit.

To explore the background and consequences of this claim, Dahl designs a layered plotline that includes the relationships between the African-American and Jewish communities; the abusive and often criminal practices of city landlords; the unwillingness of police and district attorneys to reopen closed cases; the decline of U.S. newspapers; and the shoddy journalism that arises from the tension between getting the

facts straight and being first to break the story.

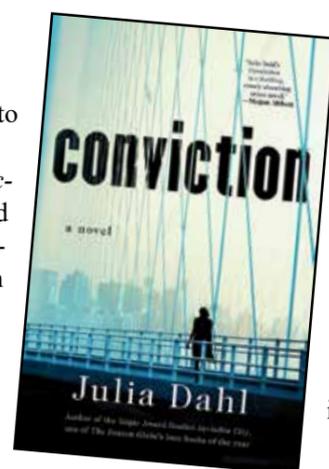
And that's not all. *Conviction* probes the texture and dynamics of parent-child relationships in a remarkably rich way. It's not all good news. The relationship between Rebekah and her mother, Aviva, for instance, is very rocky.

Though the reasons for this would be clear to readers of Dahl's first two novels – especially the second, *Run You Down*, where the women are developed in detail – first-timers might well be curious about what is largely left unexplained.

Aviva is extremely judgmental, and she disrespects her daughter's career choice. Digging up and exposing secrets is not something she appreciates, especially when they hit close to home. Rebekah is almost ready to give up on forging a relationship with the mother she only recently came to know.

Family rupture is also part of the story of Saul Katz, an ex-police officer in the 2014 portion of the story and, as fate would have it, part of the team that first investigated the deadly assault on the Davis family back in 1992. He is estranged from his wife and son for reasons the narrative makes clear.

Saul is also Aviva's boyfriend, as well as Rebekah's friend. Importantly, he is Rebekah's pipeline to the Hasidic community, to which he once belonged.



Family dysfunction is also an element in the story of Joe, a California Jewish boy whose identity undergoes dangerous changes on the road to a psychotic, criminal adulthood in Crown Heights.

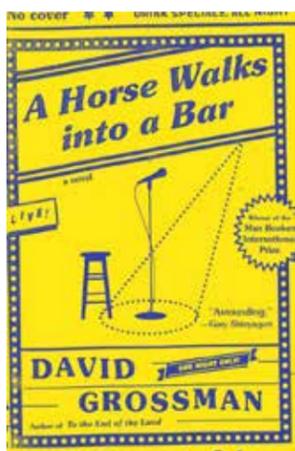
This is a novel of extreme tension – tension that ripples through almost all the characters, especially Rebekah, in her quest to become a respected professional, to make a life for herself in New York, to be a positive force in this troubled community, to face the dangers of urban life, to love and be loved.

Dahl's handling of dialogue is sharper than ever. She pins down speech patterns so that the presence and personality of her characters is profoundly realized. Her treatment of Joe is a stunning case in point, but there are many others.

You can tell by now, dear reader, that Rebekah is key to inmate DeShawn's future. However, to reveal too much about the steps along the way would defang the impact of this gripping, multidimensional novel. Rebekah's persistence and growing mastery of investigatory skill runs parallel to Julia Dahl's growing ambition and mastery of her craft. ▲

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

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Stars of David

By Nate Bloom, Contributing Columnist

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

The Tribe at the Emmys

The 69th *Primetime Emmy Awards* will be broadcast live on CBS on Sunday, September 17 at 8:00 p.m. Stephen Colbert will host. The Creative Arts Emmys are awarded on Saturday, September 16 (FX cable, 8:00 p.m.). The Creative Emmy categories include guest actor on a series, documentaries, reality and animated shows, and all the technical awards. I'll mention a few Jewish "Creative" nominees at the end of this column. Here are the confirmed Jewish *Primetime Emmy* nominees.

Acting Categories: Lead actor, comedy series: **JEFFREY TAMBOR**, 73, *Transparent*; Lead actress, comedy series: **PAMELA ADLON**, 51, *Better Things*, and **TRACEE ELLIS ROSS**, 44, *Black-ish* (Ross's father is Jewish; her mother is famous African-American singer Diana Ross); Note: Julia Louis-Dreyfus, a nominee in this category, had one Jewish grandparent (paternal grandpa) and she's said repeatedly "I'm not Jewish"; Lead actor, drama series: **LIEV SCHREIBER**, 49, *Ray Donovan*; Lead actress, drama series: **EVAN RACHEL WOOD**, 29, *West World*; Supporting actor, drama: **MANDY PATINKIN**, 64, *Homeland*; Supporting actress, comedy series: **VANESSA BAYER**, 35, *Saturday Night Live*, and **JUDITH LIGHT**, 68, *Transparent*; Supporting actress, limited series/movie: **JACKIE HOFFMAN**, 56, *Feud: Bette and Joan*.

Directing and writing awards cite one episode. First, the directors: Comedy series: **DAVID MANDEL**, 47, *Veep*. Mandel has written for many series, including *Seinfeld*. He wrote 10 *Seinfeld* episodes, including the famous "Bizarro Jerry" episode, which he says is his favorite. Director, limited series, or movie or special: **GLENN WEISS**, 55, the Oscars ceremony; Director, variety series: **JEREMY KONNER**, 37, *Drunk History* (Konner is also the co-creator of this series); Writing, comedy series: **DAVID MANDEL**, *Veep*; Writing, drama series: **JOE WEISBERG**, 56, *The Americans*. A former CIA officer, Weisberg created *The Americans*, a series about two KGB agents posing as Americans in the 1980s. Writing, limited series: **JAFFE COHEN**, 60ish,

co-writer, *Feud: Bette and Joan*, and **RICHARD PRICE**, 67, co-writer, *The Night Of*.

Five series are nominated for outstanding writing, variety series (*Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*, *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*, *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, *Saturday Night Live* and *Late Night with Stephen Colbert*). These shows' entire writing staffs are nominated and I simply can't "vet" these big staffs. By the way, Seth Meyers is not Jewish, although his paternal grandfather was Jewish. He did marry his wife **ALEXI ASHE** in a Jewish ceremony in 2013.

The Emmys for "best series" in various categories goes to the series' producers, of whom there are many. My practice is to note which of the "best" series have a Jewish creator or co-creator. Best Comedy Series: **STEVEN LEVITAN**, 55, co-creator, *Modern Family*, and **JOHN ALTSCHULER/DAVE KRINSKY**, both 54, co-creators, with Mike Judge, of *Silicon Valley*; Best Drama Series: **PETER MORGAN**, 54, *The Crown* (which he wrote), and **DAN FOGELMAN**, 38, *This is Us*; Best Limited Series: Jaffee Cohen, co-creator, *Feud: Bette and Joan*, Richard Price, co-creator, *The Night Of*, and **NOAH PINK**, 35ish, co-creator, *Genius* (Pink is a Canadian Jew from Nova Scotia); Best Variety Sketch Series: **BILLY EICHNER**, 37, creator and star of *Billy on the Street*, Jeremy Konner, co-creator, *Drunk History*, **CARRIE BROWNSTEIN**, 42, co-creator and co-star of *Portlandia*, and **LORNE MICHAELS**, 72, creator of *Saturday Night Live*. Best TV movie: **BARRY LEVINSON**, 75, *Wizard of Lies*. Levinson, the film's director, is nominated as the film's producer.

It seems to be a record year for nominations for non-Jewish thespians playing real-life Jews. Robert De Niro, who played **BERNIE MADOFF** in *Wizard of Lies*, vies with Geoffrey Rush, who played **ALBERT EINSTEIN** in *Genius*, for the lead actor Emmy in a limited series. Stanley Tucci, who played **JACK L. WARNER** (of Warner Bros. fame) in *Feud*, is nominated for supporting actor, limited series; and Michelle Pfeiffer, who played **RUTH**

Interested in Your Family's History?

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

So here's the deal:

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

MADOFF opposite De Niro, is up for supporting actress, limited series. Rush has already won an Oscar for playing a Jew (pianist **DAVID HELFGOTT** in *Shine*) and an Emmy for playing the late actor **PETER SELLERS** (whose mother was Jewish).

Now for the Creative Emmys corner: **HANK AZARIA**, 53, guest actor, drama, *Ray Donovan*; Ben Mendelsohn, a nominee in this category, is the "same story" as Seth Meyers/Julia Louis-Dreyfus; **SARAH SILVER-**

MAN, 46, variety special, *A Speck of Dust*; **MINDY STERLING**, 64, best known for playing "Frau Farbissina" in the *Austin Powers* movies, is nominated for best actress in short form shows (one a web series); **FISHER STEVENS**, 53, is nominated for best direction of a non-fiction program (AKA, a documentary), *Bright Lights Starring Debbie Reynolds and Carrie Fisher*; he competes in this category with **EZRA EDELMAN**, 43, *O.J.: Made in America*.▲

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The Jewish People's Philharmonic Chorus: A revival of Yiddish music in our time

By Arlene Stolnitz

A highlight of the North American Jewish Choral Festival this summer was the Jewish People's Philharmonic Chorus, the only chorus in New York City with an all-Yiddish repertoire. According to a recent article in *Moment* magazine, the JPPC is a "vibrant inter-generational ensemble... with an upbeat Broadway bounce."

I can remember a few years back when it was thought that Yiddish was a "dying language." Today we have much evidence that this idea is not true. The JPPC is part of the modern Yiddish renaissance.

About forty singers participate in the ensemble. Their members range in age from young professionals in their 20s to senior citizens in their mid-80s, each committed to preserving the Yiddish language and passing it on through the medium of beautiful Yiddish choral music.

From oratorios and operettas to labor anthems, folksongs and popular Yiddish folk tunes, the group commissions new Yiddish works by contemporary composers. The chorale's conductor, Binyumen Schaechter, is its enthusiastic director whose vision is the inspiration and success of this remarkable group.

Audiences have been asked randomly why they have chosen to attend these performances. Many answer that they remember beloved family members, such as grandparents who spoke Yiddish. They long to hear the language of their relatives in musical form. Songs

such as "Oyfn Pripichok," "Rabbi Elimelech," "Rozhinkes Mit Mandlen" and "Tumbalalaika" are reminiscent of life in Eastern Europe, and for some, stir long-forgotten memories.

Schaechter always provides printed programs for each concert with transliterated words and meanings. Sing-alongs add another dimension of pleasure for listeners. Programs often include what is called "The Yiddish Top Chai – The 18 Top Yiddish Songs People Love To Hear."

JPPC has had a long history. Founded in 1923 on New York's Lower East Side, the group was originally called "Freiheit Gezang Farein." Part of the burgeoning labor movement, it was the first Jewish chorus to be accompanied by an orchestra. Today it is a nonsectarian music organization, open to people of all faiths. It is the longest continuously running Jewish chorale group in the world.

Binyumen, its current conductor, is the son of the prominent Yiddish linguist Mordkhe Schaechter, which accounts for his intense interest in the preservation of the Yiddish language. He and his three sisters speak only Yiddish with their children. He has been conductor of the chorus since 1995. Before that, he was an award-winning composer and performer in many off-Broadway productions and cabaret settings.

His numerous accomplishments include composer, musician, pianist, performer as well as conductor. Performing throughout the world on five continents, his songs have been recorded by artists such as Tova Feldshuh. In his present position, he is able to combine his musical talent with his passion for the Yiddish language.

In Schaechter's words, "I try to bring Yiddish songs to the next generation." With his two outstandingly talented daughters, Temma and Reyna, known as Di Shekhter-Tekhter (the Schaechter Sisters), they have toured the world singing Yiddish songs and bringing our musical heritage to life.

There are others working on the preservation of the Yiddish language and the memory of its culture in Europe through the medium of music. One of the foremost is Yale Strom, who, with his wife Elizabeth Schwartz, has created an entertaining program called *Mayses un Musik* (Stories and Music), a musical journey through the Jewish culture of Eastern Europe. Their book, *A Wandering Feast*, tells the story of their travels through Eastern Europe and includes Yiddish songs and recipes, as well as a detailed Yiddish-English glossary. Several years ago, they appeared in a program at Temple Beth Israel on Longboat Key.

Other groups such as The Yiddish Book Center have produced programs such as *Yidstock: The Festival of New Yiddish Music*. The popular Klezmatics continually play to sold-out audiences.

Locally, we have a Yiddish expert in Sarasota County. David Berman, Emeritus Professor of Music at Ithaca College, is a renowned authority on Yiddish music. His extensive library fills an entire wall of his study.

I encourage you to check out the music of the Jewish People's Philharmonic Chorus on YouTube. I guarantee you will enjoy it! ▲

Arlene Stolnitz, founder of the Sarasota Jewish Chorale, is a member of the Jewish Congregation of Venice. A retired educator from Rochester, New York, she has sung in choral groups for over 25 years and also sings in Venice's Chorale (formerly Exsultate!). Her interest in choral music has led to this series of articles on Jewish folk music in the Diaspora.

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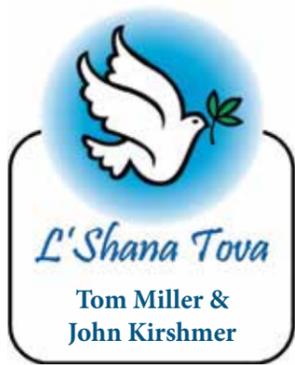
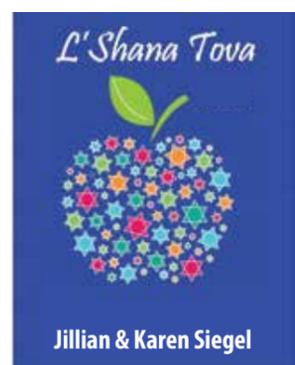
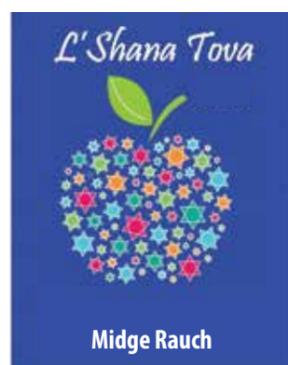
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Hy Tuchman

The Jews of Belgium fight back

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

In September 1942, two Jewish communists in Belgium, Hertz Jospa and his wife Yvonne, were instrumental in founding the *Comité de Défense des Juifs* (Jewish Defense Committee or CDJ), which was to become a leading Belgian resistance organization during World War II.

Members of the Jewish revolutionary organization *Solidarité juive*, the Jospas were a remarkable couple. Yvonne was born in Romania in 1910 with the name Have (Chava) Groisman. The third of four girls, she came from an observant middle-class background.

Her father was one of three judges in their hometown, and her mother was actively involved in the work of the local Jewish school. Yvonne attended school in Kishinev (Chişinău) before moving to Belgium to study social work at the University of Liège.

In 1933, she married Hertz, a pharmaceutical chemist. Straight after their wedding, Yvonne and Hertz joined the Communist Party of Belgium, and in 1934 became Belgian citizens. Prior to the outbreak of World War II they worked with child refugees from the Spanish Civil War and organized the passage through Belgium of Romanian anti-fascist volunteers going to Spain to fight with the International Brigades.

During 1935 and 1936 Yvonne also took care of Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria. After the *Kristallnacht* pogrom of November 9-10, 1938, her work intensified dramatically. She would often shield illegal immigrants in her house, prior to smuggling them out of Belgium and to a safe third country.

With the Nazi invasion of Belgium and the country's capitulation on May 28, 1940, Yvonne began to devote herself fully to social and relief matters. She and Hertz moved around constantly with false names and papers; their multiple identities as Jews, communists and anti-Nazis placing them in a state of constant peril.

An extensive Nazi nighttime raid on the Jewish quarter of Brussels in September 1942 – 75 years ago this month – was the spur for many Belgian Jews to join rescue and armed resistance groups. Hertz and Yvonne, along with Zionist associations and the *Front de l'Indépendance*, established the *Comité de Défense des Juifs*, which came to be recognized by the Belgian Government-in-Exile in London as the representative body of the Belgian Jewish community. Yvonne headed the branch working to

rescue Jewish children, and through her efforts over three thousand were saved from deportation through placement with sympathetic non-Jewish families.

The CDJ's activities were many. They hid Jewish children, published anti-Nazi publications, functioned as a national social service organization, and created false identification papers for Jews in hiding. There were approximately thirty members in the children's section alone, and it developed a vast network for hiding Jews. The department for forged documents not only provided Jews with false papers, but also supplied the broader resistance movement throughout Belgium. The section *Kinderen* was responsible for the hiding and support of individuals who had gone underground.

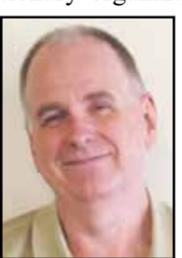
The most important act of resistance by the CDJ took place on the evening of April 19-20, 1943, when agents derailed a train leaving the Mechelen (Malines) transit camp headed for Auschwitz. The CDJ had learned of the exact date and time of the deportation from Mechelen, and smuggled tools from the camp's workshop onto the train cars in order to enable prisoners to pry open the railcar doors and floorboards. Three members of the CDJ unit Group G, under the direction of Georges Livchitz, forced the train to a halt by signaling it with a red lantern. While Livchitz held the engineer at gunpoint with his revolver, the other two members, Robert Maistriau and Jean Franklemon, aided in the escape of several prisoners within the cars. The three CDJ agents were able to escape under gunfire, with the operation saving 231 Jews out of the 1,631 heading for Auschwitz. This is the only known instance of an armed assault anywhere in Europe staged in order to halt a train transporting Jews en route to their deaths. Georges Livchitz was arrested and executed in February 1944 by a German firing squad.

Overall, the *Comité de Défense des Juifs* was the most important achievement of Belgian Jewry during the German occupation. It played a critical role in rescue and resistance between September 1942 and Belgium's liberation in February 1945.

In June 1943, Hertz Jospa was arrested, caught while meeting with a Jewish courier. He was deported as a political resister, not as a Jew, which saved him from being sent to Auschwitz. After a period of local detention in Belgium, in May 1944 he was deported to Buchenwald. Yvonne lost contact with him and thought he had died, but he returned on May 8, 1945, after the camp was liberated. When he returned he was but a shadow of what he had been prior to his arrest, emotionally and physically exhausted, and very sick. It took a long period of convalescence for him to return to health.

All the members of Yvonne's family who remained in Romania were murdered during the Holocaust, but a sister, who was with her in Belgium, survived. No one, however, other than those with whom she had the closest contact during the war, knew of her accomplishments on behalf of Jewish children. In 1964, in order to keep alive the community of resisters she had played such an important part in facilitating, she co-founded the *Union des Anciens Résistants Juifs de Belgique* (Union of Former Belgium Jewish Resistance Members). She remained honorary chairperson of this organization until her death, in Brussels, in 2000.▲

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



■ Dr. Paul Bartrop

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Saturday evening, September 16
8:00pm - Coffee & Dessert
8:30pm - Havdalah and Selichot Service

Rosh Hashanah Services

Wednesday, September 20
7:30pm - Services
Thursday September 21
10:00am - Services
11:00am - Children's Service
Light luncheon and Taschlich Ceremony following the morning services at Temple Beth Shalom

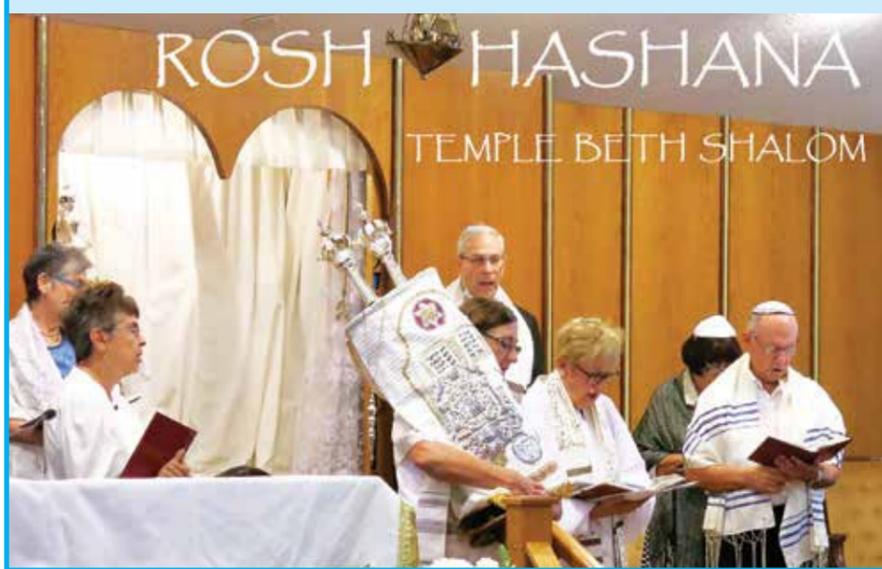
Cemetery Visitation Service

Sunday, September 17
11:00 am - We will gather at the gate of the "Beit Hakodesh" to remember and honor our dearly departed loved ones – no matter where they are buried.

Yom Kippur Services

Friday September 29
7:30pm - Kol Nidre Service
Saturday September 30
10:00am - 1:00pm - Morning Service
11:00am - Children's Service
3:30pm - Mincha, followed by Yizkor Memorial and Neilah Services, Concluding Shofar and Havdalah Break-the-Fast at Sundown (reservations required)

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Grieving, remembering and moving forward

By Joel Hersch, July 12, 2017

In the background of my daily thoughts and awareness, my grief over the loss of my wife of 53½ years is unrelenting. It has been more than a year since she died, but still, I hide it from everyone. I don't want my grief to interfere with my living relationships; it would overcome them and make sympathy and empathy cumbersome.

Instead, I let the grief and sorrow happen when no one is looking. My grief often rears its head when it's dark, when I'm alone, like when I come across Phyllis's nail file, the marks of her self-manicuring still evident on its surface.

When I go to the closet for a shirt and see her purse. Phyllis passed away with \$17 still remaining tucked away

in her wallet. In Judaism, the number 18 is significant. Eighteen is chai, meaning life and good fortune – as the *Fiddler on the Roof* song goes, "To life, to life, l'chaim..."

What an ironic twist of fate. A message from above from the All-Knowing One? I consider adding \$1 to the sum to make it \$18 – but what good can come from \$17 and \$1 that would be a valid memorial to my most cherished lifelong soulmate and companion? Perhaps I should ask for suggestions.

The episodes of sorrow that tear at my heart come from so many places: the empty seat at the kitchen table when I have breakfast; a tune on the car radio that we sang along to together; smiling at each other; our dog, Max, lying alone on the sofa instead of snuggled

against her.

Without her here, there are so many empty places, so many empty sights, and so much emptiness. And yet, I never thought of retreating into the emptiness; I know my dear Phyllis wanted me to continue to embrace life.

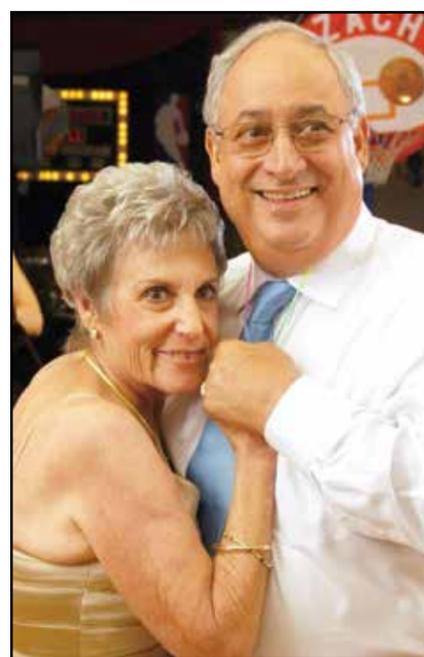
She once even confided to me that a widow and dear friend would make a good companion for me. After her death, my daughter suggested I subscribe to an online Jewish dating service. While some may have had success doing so, I was soon discouraged and gave up the effort – until a female friend in a chavurah (fellowship) group we belonged to approached me and said, "Joel, I didn't know you were looking. Would you be willing to meet two of my widowed lady friends?" As another *Fiddler on the Roof* song goes, "Matchmaker, matchmaker, make me a match..."

Now, there is a wonderful woman in my life, someone I am able to love, to talk with, to enjoy and learn to learn from. She is Jewish by choice, independent, active and intelligent, and she has a varied and most interesting life and history. She loves me, and we are good for each other.

Yes, I feel I am now making my way.

I have my friends, too, both new and old. I have my grown children, and I have my grandchildren. I share their triumphs and their happiness. I share their successes and their happiness.

I have moved on. I served on the board at synagogue before, and now I am in a chair role once again. I even worked in the synagogue office for three years and became acquainted with many members personally. I am



Phyllis and Joel Hersch

a member of the Jewish War Veterans and write for the local Federation paper, *L'CHAYIM*.

I volunteer at my synagogue. I go to my gym. I have my golf and bridge lessons. And I still watch my Rays baseball games – but now I can watch them from the bedroom. Phyllis used to kick me out to the living room so she could watch *The Bachelor*!

Phyllis will be forever 74, while I am growing older, my wrinkles a little deeper. When we meet in heaven, will she recognize me? And if she asks, "What did you do with my \$17?" I may not have a good answer for her – but I will be able to tell her, "I lived my life well, and I will always love you."▲

Joel Hersch is a member of the Board of Trustees of Temple Beth El in Fort Myers.

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Aging Jewishly – What our traditions teach us about growing old

Meow-zel Tov: The Jewish cat connection

By Rabbi Barbara Aiello

“She’s my reason to get up early every morning,” says Elaine B., assisted living resident whose morning habit could be motivated by her dedication to an aging relative or friend – certainly worthwhile endeavors – but for Elaine that’s not the case.

“Sugar needs me,” says Elaine, referring to her long hair, fluffy white cat. Elaine, the Jewish cat lover, is not alone. In fact, there seems to be a strong connection between cats and Jewish tradition, and who knew? Having a

chatul (Hebrew for cat) could be an innately Jewish thing to do.

In her article about Jews and cats, Shira Cohen-Regev tells us that since their domestication in ancient Egypt 3,600 years ago, cats and Jewish tradition have shared a common bond. Cohen-Regev informs us that cats are mentioned fondly in the Talmud.

Our rabbinic sages, including the great commentator, Rashi, note that cats are an example of modesty, given their grooming rituals and use of the litter box. The Talmud states, “If the Torah wasn’t given, we would have learned modesty from the cat.”

In his blog on the “Jewish View of Cats,” author Yonassan Gershom writes that many cultures have superstitions about cats, such as, “If a black cat crosses your path, it brings bad luck.” Not so for us Jews, especially since our religion specifically bans a belief in omens (Leviticus 19:26). Instead,

Gershom recalls what Jewish comedian Groucho Marx once said: “If a black cat crosses your path, it means the animal is going somewhere.”

Gershom continues that during the Middle Ages, when some Christians believed that cats were related to witchcraft, Jews saw cats differently. Possibly because cats were part of the culture of ancient Egypt and thus were familiar to Jews, this feline prejudice didn’t exist. However, for many European Christians it was a different story. Gershom writes, “So, in contrast to medieval Christians who were killing cats as demons, Jews kept them around to hunt rodents and protect the holy books from mice. In fact, it was common to have a *shul katze* (synagogue cat) to protect the congregation’s library.”

When the Black Plague devastated Europe, sadly it was the Christian communities who suffered most. Why? Those “Jewish” cats that solved the mice problem also controlled the proliferation of the rat population, and thus European Jews were not as hard hit by the Plague.

So, *nu*, what is it about cats that lends itself to Jewish tradition? In an ancient Jewish text, *Perek Shirah* (The Song of the Universe), we find one answer. In these writings we are told that everything in creation sings a song to God. In fact, it is the cat who sings, “I pursued my foes and overtook them, and did not return until they were destroyed.” (Psalm 18:38.) This,

Gershom says is “a pretty good description of a stalking cat!”

Back to Elaine, who, when she emphasizes that Sugar plays an important part in her life, is right in line with current research on the relationship between pets and overall health.

As more and more elderly people live alone, having a pet can make an important difference in the daily life of an aging person. For Elaine, Sugar gives her a reason to rise early since she must start her day by tending to her pet.

When Elaine says, “Sugar needs me,” she echoes what gerontologists have determined as crucial to healthy aging – that is, having something to care for breaks isolation and increases an elderly person’s interest in life.

Judith Siegel, Professor of Public Health at UC Los Angeles, tells us that elderly people who own pets also visit the doctor less frequently than those who are without animal companions. The thinking here is that, possibly,

animals mitigate loneliness.

In a *U.S. News and World Report* article, “In the Presence of Animals” (1992), Sarah Burke found that in a review of 25 studies on the effects of pets on elderly people in nursing homes, “Residents exposed to pets consistently smiled more and became measurably more alert than those who did not encounter animals.”

Other prominent researchers concur that “animal companionship can dramatically improve the quality of life and may even have a positive impact on longevity.”

But it is Elaine B., elderly herself, who sums up in plain language what all the studies seem to have determined. “I’m almost 90 and my Sugar will be 17 in September. What can I tell you? I do for her and she does for me! – a sentiment that deserves a hearty Meow-zel Tov to Sugar and Elaine and their Jewish cat connection!▲

For ten years Rabbi Barbara Aiello served the Aviva Campus for Senior Life in Sarasota as resident rabbi. Currently as Aviva’s Rabbi Emerita, she shares her experiences on Aging Jewishly. Contact her at Rabbi@RabbiBarbara.com.



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packed. Kosher food and wine are now regularly featured at national food fairs and can be purchased at upscale stores throughout the country.

Italian historians, archaeologists and anthropologists are hard at work to document the presence of Jews which dates back to the first century, following the Roman conquest of ancient Israel. Cooperative ventures between Italian and Israeli universities are underway as well.

At the same time, anti-Semites are particularly active in northern cities like Milan and Turin. The country is also a landing point for Islamic immigrants, many of whom are openly anti-Semitic. (Michael Ledeen, *Wall Street Journal*)

ISRAEL LAUNCHES FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH SATELLITE

Israel launched its first environmental research satellite on Wednesday morning, August 2, from French Guiana, in partnership with the French space agency CNES.

The satellite will take high-resolution photographs of specific sites to track desertification, erosion, pollution, natural disasters, and other phenomena linked to climate change.

The camera on the satellite can take photographs on wavelengths not discernible to the human eye, and the high resolution makes possible "precision agriculture" for water, fertilizer and pesticide needs.

The satellite was launched together with a military observation satellite for the Italian military, both built by Israel

BRIEFS

continued from page 1

Aerospace Industries. (Melanie Lidman, *Times of Israel*)

VOLUNTEERS FROM OVERSEAS JOIN THE IDF

122 male and 31 female volunteers from 12 countries arrived in Israel over the summer in order to join the Israel Defense Forces, the Defense Ministry reported.

45% are from the U.S., 38% came from France, and others are from South Africa, Belgium, Mexico, Australia, Canada, Austria, Honduras and Thailand. (Anna Ahronheim, *Jerusalem Post*)

U.S. AND ISRAEL TEAM UP TO FIGHT "BAD ACTORS" IN CYBERSPACE

Israel and the U.S. are starting a high-level partnership to create a bulwark against increasingly sophisticated cyber attackers who target critical national infrastructure. Israel will send representatives from the Israel Security Agency, the foreign affairs, justice and defense ministries, and the military. The aim will be to find and stop cyber attackers "before they reach critical infrastructure, and identify ways to hold bad actors accountable," Tom Bossert, President Trump's homeland security and counterterrorism adviser, said recently in Tel Aviv. (Gwen Ackerman, *Bloomberg*)

ISRAEL AIDING 200,000 SYRIANS LIVING NEAR BORDER

Israel launched a new project dubbed "Operation Good Neighbor" in June

2016 to increase civilian aid for Syrians. Brig.-Gen. Yaniv Ashur said, "We have learned from the Americans who lost the Iraqi population. We realized that we could do more for the population near our border than what we were doing at the time."

The IDF is working with international organizations and donors to transfer aid to over 200,000 Syrians living close to the Israeli border.

In the past year alone, the IDF has given to Syrian civilians over 360 tons of food and flour, 456,000 liters of gas, 100 tons of clothes (55 tons of warm clothes), 12 tons of shoes, as well as generators and mobile caravans to use as clinics or classrooms. Additional aid included 12,000 packages of baby formula, 1,800 packages of diapers, and 600 meters of piping to re-establish ruined water infrastructure, giving 5,000 people running water. This is in addition to the over 3,000 wounded and sick Syrians who have been treated in Israel since 2013. "Once a week a busload of sick children comes into Israel," Ashur said. (Anna Ahronheim, *Jerusalem Post*)

NEW AIR ROUTE FROM CHINA WILL BOOST TOURISM TO ISRAEL

China's Hainan Airlines has submitted a request to Israel's Civil Aviation Authority to operate a route between Guangzhou in southern China and Ben-Gurion Airport, the Transportation Ministry announced recently. Hainan Airlines, China's largest privately-owned air carrier, already operates 4-5 direct weekly flights between Beijing and Tel Aviv, in addition to the El Al flights between those destinations. Starting in September, Hainan Airlines will also operate three weekly flights between Shanghai and Tel Aviv.

Transportation Minister Israel Katz said increasing the locations connected by direct flights is expected to help realize the enormous potential of inbound tourism from China. "We are talking about hundreds of thousands of Chinese who admire the history of the Jewish people," said Katz.

In the first half of 2017, the number of tourists from China increased by 75% over the same period in 2016, with 61,000 visits. (Tamara Zieve, *Jerusalem Post*)

ISRAEL SECURITY AGENCY HAS THWARTED 2,000 ATTACKS WITH CYBERTECH

The Israel Security Agency has used cyber technology to prevent more than 2,000 terror attacks since the beginning of 2016, agency head Nadav Argaman told a conference at Tel Aviv University.

He said Israeli intelligence agencies have also passed on information to stop terrorists elsewhere in the world.

He noted that groundbreaking cyber technology has helped to protect against lone-wolf attacks that would have been unpreventable using traditional intelligence means.

He added that hackers who attempt to attack Israel are in for a surprise. "We are not only defending but also attacking hackers in the world. Hackers who operate against Israel around the world find they experience unexpected

problems. We learn the patterns of activities of the enemy and know how to surprise him with counterattacks in many different ways." (*Times of Israel*)

ISRAEL SEEKS FRIENDLY BUFFER ZONE IN SYRIAN GOLAN TO COUNTER IRANIAN PENETRATION

Israel has been supplying Syrian rebels near its border with cash, food, fuel and medical supplies for years, a secret engagement aimed at carving out a buffer zone populated by friendly forces. Israel's aim is to keep Iran-backed fighters away from the border on the Golan Heights.

Israeli officials have pointed out that rebels in certain areas have never tried to attack Israel, while an Islamic State affiliate that has carved out a pocket of control on the south end of the Syrian Golan exchanged fire with Israeli forces last year.

Israel has dubbed the current Golan operation "The Good Neighborhood" policy, according to political analyst Ehud Ya'ari. "It's a matter of interests," said a person familiar with Israeli policy. Israel offers humanitarian support and in return gets a "buffer zone" of local militias defending themselves. (Rory Jones, *Wall Street Journal*)

MURDEROUS PALESTINIAN MATH

Omar al-Abed murdered three Jews. This means he will almost certainly be sentenced to more than 30 years in prison.

According to the Palestinian Authority compensation law, this entitles him to \$3,364 each month, four times what the average Palestinian earns.

That's \$40,368 a year, or \$1,211,040 for 30 years.

Imagine there was a government-sponsored program here in America that paid you a million bucks every time you murdered members of another ethnic group.

In 2016, 11% of the PA's budget – \$500 million – came from the U.S. (Liel Leibovitz, *Tablet*)

POLL: GAZANS WANT THE PA TO TAKE OVER

Reliable data from a new survey conducted in Gaza on May 16-25, 2017, by a professional, independent Palestinian pollster demonstrate that only 14% of Gazans self-identify as Hamas supporters. Fatah garners 41% of Gazans' self-professed affiliation. 77% of Gazans agree that "the PA should send officials and security officers to Gaza, to take over the administration there."

80% of Gazans want Hamas to "preserve a cease-fire with Israel." 62% say that "Hamas should stop calling for Israel's destruction, and instead accept a permanent two-state solution based on the 1967 lines."

67% of Gazans report a monthly family income of under \$330, compared with just 8% of West Bankers. This helps explain why 69% of Gazans want more jobs in Israel. If the Palestinian leadership is able to negotiate a two-state solution, 47% of Gazans – up 13 points since 2015 – said "that should end the conflict." (David Pollock, Washington Institute for Near East Policy)▲



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Israel, India expand commercial ties during Modi visit

Seven Memorandum of Understanding deals signed including \$40 million India-Israel Industrial Research and Development and Technical Innovation Fund.

By Viva Sarah Press, ISRAEL21c, www.israel21c.org, July 6, 2017

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Israel this week has produced new economic deals and partnerships between Israeli and Indian companies, including seven Memorandum of Understanding agreements to increase cooperation in technological research and development, space, water conservation and agriculture.

"India and Israel are walking hand in hand into the future as partners. India is a growing economic powerhouse with a large market and talent pool. Israel is a world leader in high technology and innovation," Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wrote in a joint editorial this week.

"The combination of India's and Israel's human resources and ingenuity will provide more effective and more

The two countries signed two agreements to increase cooperation on water conservation and state water utility reform in India. An MoU was signed between Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam and the Israeli Ministry of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources.

"We agreed that efficiency of water and resource use; water conservation and its purification; productivity increases in agriculture are key areas in deepening our bilateral cooperation," Modi said.

Modi and Netanyahu attended a demonstration of a GalMobile desalination unit capable of supplying drinking water for 22,000 people per day. They were briefed by the G.A.L. managing director and tasted water that had been desalinated on the spot.

In the agriculture sector, Israel and

teleradiology company, announced a partnership to bring Zebra's cloud-based deep learning analytics engine to more than 20 countries and 150 hospitals and healthcare organizations.

"Zebra's ability to produce and deploy AI for radiology is the exact type of added value we hope to bring to help fulfill our vision of impacting patient diagnosis and medical care in India, Asia and Africa," said Dr. Arjun Kalyanpur, founder and CEO of Teleradiology Solutions and Telerad Tech.

Shachaf Engineering and Mahindra Telephonics signed an MoU to collaborate on the design, development and manufacture of strategic electronics.

"We are keen to bring to the table our in-house expertise as well as technical know-how from TTM Technologies – with whom we have a long-term relationship and represent in Israel as well as in India since 2006 – to the current and future design of new generation systems in different segments of activities," said Zeev Harel, CEO of Shachaf Engineering in Tel Aviv.

According to the Israeli Ministry of Economy and Industry, since the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Israel in 1992, trade between the countries has grown from \$200 million in 1992 to \$4.13 billion in 2016.

"The Indian economy is becoming a prime destination for Israeli exports, with its 1.3 billion consumers, led by 300 million citizens in the middle and upper-middle class, with purchasing power equal to the middle class of Western economies," said Israeli Minister of Economy and Industry's Eli Cohen.

"The Israeli Ministry of Economy



Members of Israel's Indian community celebrate in Tel Aviv during the official visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (photo by Tomer Neuberger/FLASH90)

and Industry – through its Foreign Trade Administration and array of three trade missions in India – helps Israeli exporters open up the Indian market, which undoubtedly holds tremendous economic and trade potential."

Many Israeli companies have established offices and production facilities in India, among them Teva, Netafim, CheckPoint, Amdocs, Magic Software, Ness Technologies, Mobileye and HP Indigo as well as Israel Aerospace Industries, Elbit, Verint and others.

A report issued by Accenture and NASSCOM, "Collaborative Innovation: The vehicle driving Indo-Israel prosperity," estimates that by 2025, up to \$25 billion of revenue potential can be unleashed for businesses in the two countries through cumulative cross-border investment into Indian and Israeli startups.▲

Viva Sarah Press reports on the creativity, innovation and ingenuity taking place in Israel. Her work has been published by international media outlets including Israel Television, CNN, Reuters, Time Out and The Jerusalem Post.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meet in Israel, July 2017 (photo by Haim Zach/GPO)

affordable solutions for us in diverse fields that are priorities for both our governments: agriculture, water, health, environment, education and security."

Modi's July 4-6 visit marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. It was the first-ever visit by an Indian prime minister to Israel.

One of the highlights was the signing of an MoU for setting up a \$40 million India-Israel Industrial Research and Development (R&D) and Technical Innovation Fund. Each country will contribute \$20 million to enable joint Indian and Israeli R&D projects that could lead to the development of innovative

India agreed to create the India-Israel Development Cooperation – a three-year work program from 2018 to 2020.

The Israel Space Agency and Indian Space Research Organization agreed to cooperate in atomic clocks and continue academic cooperation. The two space agencies also signed MoUs on cooperation in GEO-LEO optical link and electric propulsion for small satellites.

Greater collaboration in startup arena

Modi met with the CEOs of Israeli and Indian companies in the context of the launch of an Israeli-Indian CEO forum to be chaired by Manufacturers Association President Shraga Brosh. Modi and



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi signs the guest book before his meeting with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, at the President's Residence in Jerusalem (photo by Yonatan Sindel/FLASH90)

technologies and products that have potential for commercial application.

"We are of one view that together our scientists and researchers would develop, build and implement mutually beneficial solutions in the field," said Modi. "We regard thriving two-way trade and investment flows as the bedrock of a strong partnership."

Netanyahu asked the forum to come up with early recommendations to help boost bilateral cooperation in innovation and entrepreneurship and called for greater collaboration in the field of startups.

On July 5, Zebra Medical Vision and Telerad Tech, the technology arm of Teleradiology Solutions, India's largest

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AJC Global Forum addresses anti-Semitism and human rights

By Jeff Margolis

Over three thousand representatives from all over the world came together at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C., in June to participate in the American Jewish Committee's annual Global Forum. Established in 1906, the mission of AJC is to serve as a Jewish advocacy and human rights organization.

Keynote speakers at this year's conference included Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, and U.S. National Security Advisor General H. R. McMaster. Senator Schumer warned,

"There are dark, hateful fringes in our society." He said that the rise of anti-Semitism is an outrage. He also commented about the pervasive anti-Semitism at the United Nations. General McMaster's remarks focused on the importance of U.S. power and strength as a force for good in the world. He said that we need to take a strong stance against radicalism and must champion democracy and the rule of law.

Breakout sessions included discussions on the increase of anti-Semitism in Europe, the changes in Black-Jewish

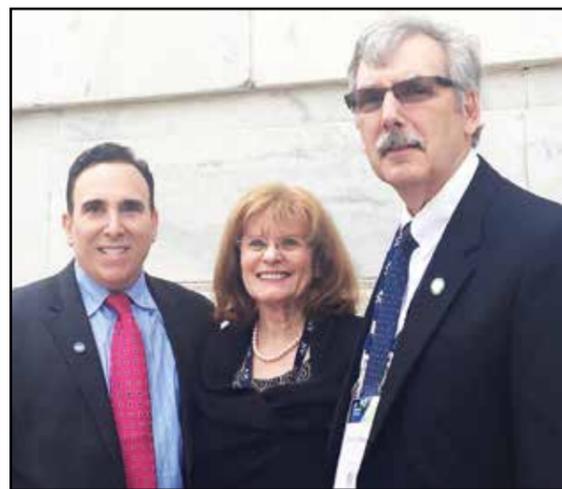
relations, and the establishment of a Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council.

At one of several World Plenary dinners, AJC presented its prestigious Light Unto the Nations Award to Klaus Werner Iohannis, President of Romania. President Iohannis has been instrumental in combatting Anti-Semitism in his country. The next day he was feted at the White House, where President Trump acknowledged his award.

At one of the other Global Forum sessions, participants were introduced to the AJC LFT Program – Leaders for Tomorrow. This program encourages college students to attend workshops and visit Israel with the hope that they will form the nucleus of Jewish leaders for the future.

AJC Executive Director David Harris challenged the conference attendees. He said, "History can change." He exhorted the group to take a more proactive role in advocating for global human rights and in combating the increase in anti-Semitism around the world.

The culminating activity of the conference was a massive lobbying effort in Congress. Volunteers were



Brian Lipton, AJC West Coast Florida Regional Director, with Ida & Jeff Margolis at the AJC Global Forum in Washington, D.C.

provided with talking points and visited Congressional offices to meet with either members of Congress or their legislative assistants. This year's policy agenda included encouraging Congress to pressure the EU to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization (HR 359), and also legislation championing the stability and democracy of Ukraine and to affirm America's commitment to that nation (HR 830).

In honor of the 70th anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel, the AJC Global Forum 2018 will take place in Jerusalem. For more information about AJC in Southwest Florida, please contact Brian Lipton at 941.365.4955 or liptonb@ajc.org. ▲

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Care without question

Since February 2013, Israeli doctors have treated more than 1,200 Syrians wounded in their civil war. The number of Syrians entrusting their lives to Israeli hospitals continues to grow. Throughout Israel's history, doctors have treated people regardless of their ethnicity, even if their country was at war with Israel.

ISRAEL21c

Israel. Photo courtesy of GPO

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FIDF supports over 50,000 soldiers during first-ever IDF appreciation week

New weeklong series of events featured "Fun Day" for Lone Soldiers, gift packages for combat soldiers, ice cream trucks visiting bases across Israel, and carnival.

Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) supported more than 50,000 Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers during the first-ever national appreciation week for IDF soldiers in Israel, June 29 - July 8, held in partnership with the IDF and Yachad Le'maan Ha'chayal (The Association for the Wellbeing of Israel's Soldiers and The LIBI Fund).

The inaugural "IDF Appreciation Week" opened with a "Fun Day" of rest and recuperation on June 29 for more than 6,000 "Lone Soldiers" – IDF soldiers with no immediate family in

Israel – at Israel's largest waterpark, just outside of Tel Aviv. There are some 6,550 Lone Soldiers from 80 countries serving in the IDF today. About 826 came from the United States, 582 from Ukraine, 531 from Russia and 515 from France.

During the weeklong series of events, FIDF distributed gift packages to more than 17,000 combat soldiers through its Adopt-A-Battalion Program; sent five ice cream trucks to visit more than 34,000 soldiers on IDF combat bases across the country; and, in partnership with the International Fellowship of

Christians and Jews (The Fellowship), gathered 15,000 IDF soldiers for music, food and live entertainment at the IDF's training campus in the Negev.

About Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF)

FIDF was established in 1981 by a group of Holocaust survivors as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with the mission of offering educational, cultural, recreational and social programs and facilities that provide hope, purpose and life-changing support for the soldiers who protect Israel and Jews worldwide. Today, FIDF has more than



150,000 loyal supporters and 20 chapters throughout the United States and Panama. FIDF proudly supports IDF soldiers, families of fallen soldiers, and wounded veterans through a variety of innovative programs that reinforce the vital bond between the communities in the United States, the soldiers of the IDF, and the State of Israel. For more information, visit www.fidf.org.



FIDF's ice cream trucks delivered refreshments to more than 34,000 combat soldiers in Israel (photo credit: Scally Photography)



An FIDF staff member handed out refreshments to more than 15,000 IDF soldiers at the IDF's training campus in the Negev (photo credit: Scally Photography)



FIDF distributed gift packages to more than 17,000 combat soldiers through its Adopt-A-Battalion Program (photo courtesy of FIDF)

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Jewish unity: Call me naïve

By David Harris, AJC CEO, July 17, 2017

When I was growing up on the West Side of Manhattan, I recall elderly men from Jerusalem ringing our doorbell a couple of times per year. They were pious, and they were raising money for their institutions in Israel.

My mother and I lived alone, and, as a working woman, she had very limited disposable income, but she never let them leave empty-handed.

When I asked her why she would give money to people who, it was obvious, lived a very different lifestyle than ours, and why she never asked probing questions about the organizations they represented, she would simply say, in effect: "They're Jews. We're Jews. We need to support one another. Hitler made no distinction among Jews. We all were targeted for annihilation, irrespective of our beliefs, clothing, dietary habits, whatever. Why should I make a distinction?"

My mother survived the Holocaust. I took her words seriously. Indeed, I took them to heart and have sought to put them into practice on a daily basis. If we really are one people, then, whatever our differences, we need to act as one people.

Forty-two years ago, I joined the Jewish communal world, getting started in Rome and Vienna, the two transit points in Europe for Jews able to leave the Soviet Union and plan new lives be-

yond the grasp of the communist world.

I personally dealt with thousands of people. Their backgrounds could not have been more diverse. Some were devout Jews who had, remarkably, avoided Soviet detection. Many others were staunchly atheist. And, of course, there were those in between. Some were deeply Zionist, others showed little interest in Israel. But to us on the front line, they were all Jews, and that's what really mattered. We were there to welcome them, assist them, and plant the seeds for future engagement.

In the midst of this work, I had my first shock after my girlfriend and I decided to get married, and wanted to do so in Vienna.

We excitedly scheduled an appointment with the Orthodox rabbi (the only one in the city at the time), only to be dismayed by his frigid reception. He was suspicious, skeptical and stern. Nothing we said about our families, our stories and our passion could budge him. He wanted documented, notarized proof galore that we were Jews before he'd even continue the conversation.

Here we were, two young Jews working with the wave of Soviet Jews in Vienna, barely three decades after the Holocaust and surrounded by special police units on guard for Arab terrorist attacks, and we were met not with open arms, but with a cold shoulder.

I called my mother in New York

and told her of our experience, asking if she could help us get married in New York, which we did. And as if in response to our disappointment in Vienna, we were proudly married, under a chuppah, by the first female rabbi ordained in the United States, Sally Priesand.

Again, we were Jews. No one else was going to tell us who we were – or were not – and, whatever our dismay with the Vienna incident, we moved ahead.

Then, to fast forward a few decades, our eldest son fell in love with a wonderful Israeli woman. They decided to get married.

At the time, they were living in Washington, so they went to the municipal building and got a marriage certificate. Legally, they were wed, and that marriage was recognized both in the U.S. and Israel.

But they also wanted a Jewish ceremony in Israel, so they arranged for that, asking a liberal rabbi to preside. The rabbi happens to be married to one of Israel's top diplomats.

The wedding took place in Jaffa, under the chuppah, and couldn't have been lovelier – other than the fact that it was not recognized by Israel. Such personal status issues are overseen by the Chief Rabbinate, and our rabbi was not authorized to perform marriages. In many cases, Israelis fly to Cyprus, since their own country does not recognize either civil marriage or, to repeat, non-Orthodox matrimony, but our kids wanted the event to take place in Israel, not a foreign country, even if it wasn't regarded as "official."

Meanwhile, we now witness contentious issues surrounding non-Orthodox prayer at the Kotel (Western Wall), conversions to Judaism, and

"blacklists" of rabbis, including some Modern Orthodox clergy, all triggered by an increasingly insular and intolerant Chief Rabbinate in Israel that, in the name of its own narrow religious views, would divide the Jewish people and drive a wedge between Israel and the Diaspora.

And we see too many Israeli politicians running for cover, fearful of alienating this group of voters and their political parties, even as the consequences of these actions damage Israel's good name and the fabric of world Jewry.

To be clear, in Israel's history, those politicians have come from both the left and the right – saying one thing to Diaspora audiences and then doing another thing entirely when push comes to shove at home.

Yet I know two things that give me hope.

First, before it's too late, some Israeli leaders will finally take the bull by the horns and show leadership and courage in affirming, in deed as much as in word, that Israel is truly the state of all Jews, not just of a self-selected segment. And in doing so, it won't be as a favor to the Diaspora, but, far more, as a favor to Israel itself.

And second, mothers are right, in this case my own. We are one people. We may not always agree with each other. We may argue and debate until late in the night. But heaven forbid that we should allow our internal differences to undermine our shared past and future. Alas, we have enough external enemies trying to do that for us! ▲

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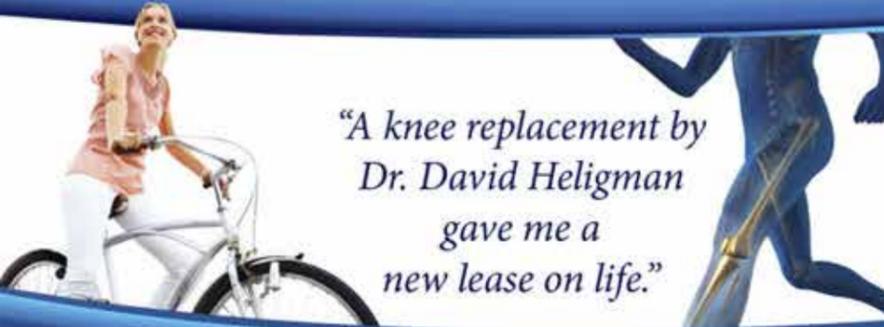


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COMMENTARY BRIEFS

THE DECLINE OF THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT

- ◆ The contemporary Palestinian national movement is reaching its end. As its institutions wither and its leaders fade away, there is no obvious successor to take its place. With the passing of Arafat and most of his colleagues, Fatah's ability to hold its fractured parts together waned.
- ◆ The social and political milieu of the West Bank and Gaza – steeped in clannish and personal influences – highlighted local fiefdoms as Fatah became mired in narrow and parochial turf wars. With no new leaders, no marked success in government, and no progress toward peace, Fatah fundamentally disappeared as a real political agent.
- ◆ Abbas' peace policy has provided the PA with a formidable firewall against the kind of international pressure associated with the Palestinian national movement's past violence and, since 1994, many of the day-to-day governing affairs of municipal, health, education and other functions have been in Palestinian hands.
- ◆ Perhaps most important, Abbas has succeeded in insulating the Palestinian people from much of the violence and destruction of the "Arab Spring" and from the growth of Salafi and jihadist movements in the West Bank. However, as a result of the failure to make diplomatic progress even in the shadow of a relatively friendly U.S. administration, the entire notion of peace negotiations has been discredited.

- ◆ Hamas' adoption of armed struggle has been no more successful than Fatah's. The suffering of Gaza's population has not served as a model or source of inspiration for the rest of the Palestinians.
- ◆ Similarly, Hamas' decade-long governance of Gaza has been marred by the same charges of corruption, incompetence and heavy-handedness as its PA counterpart. Those looking to Hamas as a replacement for Fatah would find it difficult to argue that the former has delivered where the latter has failed. (Hussein Agha and Ahmad Samih Khalidi, *The New Yorker*)

EXPERT: THERE IS NO WAY TO BOYCOTT ISRAEL

In a recent one-week period, 22 new airline routes were announced from Tel Aviv to Europe and China. Israel, one of the most developed, technological and advanced countries in the world, has a dense diplomatic network. Continuing this way, Israel will increasingly be the least-boycotted country in the world. The Swedish government, for example, loves the Palestinians without doing anything for them: companies in Sweden are doing business with Israel. It's all a matter of pretense.

UNESCO decided that the Jews had nothing to do with Jerusalem because the Bible is a Jewish fantasy. If Jewish history doesn't exist, Jerusalem must belong to the Palestinians. They could easily rewrite the history of Sicily, making it an Arab region.

In a Middle East upset by major civil wars in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, where 200-300 people die per day, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a trivial

continued on next page

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High Holidays state of mind

Some of you may be familiar with the lovely legend that after Shabbat services angels accompany us home. But if we run the film backwards, what accompanies or impedes us coming to the synagogue, especially now on the High Holidays?



■ Rabbi Devora Buchen

In many ways the angels that joined us were a reward not just for attending but absorbing and carrying the Shabbat melodies in our hearts. But is there any way to insure such rewards before we arrive? To set us in the right groove, prepare us, open us to being renewed?

Of course, there is. It is called being in the High Holidays state of mind.

You did not know that? Of course, you did, but you cannot shake yourself free to hear the message of Creation and renewal.

But what holds us so tenaciously to our everyday routines? A number of ties which we are not aware of or unwilling to admit have such power over us. The only way to free ourselves is to understand what chains enslave us and systematically loosen or sever the following connections:

1. Frantic – Mindless: Typically, we always plunge ahead, pick up where we left off and do not stop or pause to rethink. Warnings to look before you leap or think ahead fall on deaf ears. We are in a state of ongoingness which often overrides any reconsideration of purpose or mission.

2. Noisy and Conflictive: Concentration is scattered.

3. Never Enough Time: Meanwhile, time and deadlines remain constantly demanding and create an atmosphere in which there is never enough time to pause or to heed the call to do things right.

4. The Future: Neglected or hal-

lowed, the future dispossesses the present of any contribution. Thinking ahead thus leads to constant war between the now and the later, and polarizes and even poisons the process of give and take.

5. Ego Conflicts: Between hot-heads and firebrands and members competing with each other for a larger piece of the budget pie, collaboration and collective focus no longer command overriding respect.

In contrast, consider the following five environments typically created by mindful preparation for a High Holidays state of mind.

1. Stillness
2. Silence
3. Size
4. Selflessness
5. Serenity

Elaborating on each, here are the primary states of mind:

1. Stillness: Nothing is urgent or insistent, or in need of correction or balance. All is reassuringly quiet and resolved; poised like a perfect still life.

2. Silence: We are at ground zero – no movement of sound, not even the music of the harmony of the spheres. The sense is that we are at the beginning of time, just before Creation.

3. Size: We are in an enormous space, constantly unfolding in never-ending waves of infinite finality.

4. Selflessness: Ego has disappeared. In its place is a sense of well-being and generosity as if all evil and greed had been banished.

5. Serenity: The convergence of stillness, silence and size have come together to celebrate the arrival, finally, of serenity.

Meanwhile, God, who has been waiting all this time for your receptivity to Awe, to ripen and be open, welcomes you to a rebirth of the world and assigns angels to guide you home.▲

Rabbi Devora Buchen serves at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral.

“How can we build a better community?”

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (no relation), the former chief rabbi of Great Britain, is a modern prophet. He writes inconvenient truths about the state of contemporary Judaism and religious commitment in general.



■ Rabbi Marc Sack

While Rabbi Sacks has been widely published since the early 2000s, I discovered his work only recently. Weaving Jewish and secular sources together, he shows great insight into the issues of our time and a path forward. He believes that healthy individuals and a healthy society are built through cooperation and collective action, and that the Jewish community should play a central role in this effort.

Mostly, Sacks is skeptical of modern, Western humanism, the belief that each individual is a self-contained source of truth and fulfillment. He highlights the pitfalls of this belief system.

“Social responsibility needs reaffirmation because it has become problematic in recent times,” he writes. “What links me to children starving in Africa, or ... in the fate of the unemployed, the homeless, the poor in my own society, my own neighborhood? ... Ethics has tended to turn inward, becoming a matter of personal choice rather than collective responsibility.”

This turning to personal choice and away from feeling an obligation to the world outside ourselves leaves us lonely and longing for purpose. Sacks writes, “I suspect that most of us feel, from time to time, a hunger to be more serious.”

The question of what links us to others is pervasive. Twenty-five years ago, I remember talking with a Methodist minister and mentioning the name of another pastor. He asked, “Who’s

that?” I answered him, “He’s the pastor of the Presbyterian church a half-mile away.” The two men had never met or felt a need to work together. The inertia against collective action touches the Jewish world too. Before coming to Fort Myers, I created a council where professional and lay leaders of local Jewish organizations could discuss the needs of the community and what the groups could do together. The council fell apart after a year because the leaders could not think of anything to talk about.

What draws me to the writings of Rabbi Sacks is our shared belief that the Jewish people have much to contribute to healing a world that is fractured by too much focus on self-interest. He writes, “I have emphasized the active rather than passive mode of Jewish thought: what we do, rather than how we respond to what is done to us. ... The real and present challenge to Jews specifically, humanity generally, is to wrestle with the ever more consequential challenges of human action. To believe either that we are accountable to no one, or that God will somehow intervene to save us from ourselves, is consistent but irresponsible.”

In a world in which people feel disconnected from others, there is a role for Jews to play. We can be catalysts for collective action. Bringing people together is the first role of religion, including ours. Together, we can ask, “How can we build a better community?”

“Against the fundamentalisms of hate, we must create a counter-fundamentalism of love – knowing, without hesitation or equivocation, that this is what God wants us to do: to heal a fractured world.” I agree the most with Rabbi Sacks on this point: at a time when people are deeply divided and there is so much work to be done, this is what God wants of us now.▲

Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.

Heading toward the High Holy Days

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach Coordinator, Jewish Family Services

I learned how to drive when I was 16 and was very careful. Hands at ten and two. Eyes on the road and rearview mirror. Foot to the pedal only enough to obey the speed limit. Road rage did not officially exist and there wasn’t much action in Skokie. Yet, any time I saw a police car I had a Pavlovian response of “uh-oh!” and would adjust my posture, grip the wheel a little tighter, and slow down.

As we round the corner from summer and head toward the High Holy Days, I find myself shifting into another familiar automatic response when I think about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. It goes a little something like this: “Now I have to sit in shul for hours and hours, reflecting on the millions of things for which I need to ask forgiveness. Oh lord!” And not “Oh Lord” as in, “My Rock and my Redeemer,” but rather “Oh Lord” as in, “argh, umph, oysh.”

My auto-response is based on two major assumptions: 1) I’m in trouble; 2) God is keeping score.

With a perspective like this, it’s no wonder I dread going to services. Services feel so ‘ouchy.’ The habit is to sit there and press on the bruise, the sore spot on my soul, to see where it hurts and how much it hurts. It’s a hab-

it developed over many years. When my father and I pound our chests during *S’lach Lanu*, we elbow each other while reciting the specific transgressions we know the other one has committed, as if to say, “Busted!” Yet for me, it feels like I am elbowing myself the entire time, the entire holiday, in fact all year long, because as a mortal on the planet, I commit so many transgressions and sins that I cannot even fathom how God can forgive me. There is just so much to atone for.

Growing up in Chicago I was a Cubs fan and used to sit in the bleachers at Wrigley Field, in the blazing sun, next to the scoreboard where we would watch the guy change the numbers for every hit, run and error throughout the game. The scoreboard was gigantic, and for once, I am not exaggerating. It was humongous. That is the size scoreboard I carry around on the inside. That Wrigley Field Big Mamoo, where I keep an ongoing tally of my slip-ups, boo-boos, faux pas, and every now and then, a triumph.

For me, the High Holy Days mean that I have to get out that big scoreboard, all the while trying to talk to God about how this year I really am going to be a better person. Once and for all.

But something shifted this year when I thought about the High Holy Days. My very first theatre director used to say that acting was “an inside job,” meaning you had to root around on the inside and dig deep to do good work. Lo and behold, that has turned out to be true about everything. Life is an inside job.

My insides have changed and thus my assumptions have changed. For one, I have come to believe that not only is God on my side, but also that God is not really interested in my schlepping the scoreboard around. And while there are a thousand of things to change about myself immediately if not sooner, practicing kindness is the lesson I keep learning no matter the situation, especially toward myself. Go know.

Gratitude is the muscle I am strengthening, and I am aware of the abundance in my life more than ever before. This year during High Holy Day services, my intention is to give equal weight to atonement and gratitude. A spiritual Half & Half, if you will.

I often tell people that the clouds and the sky are different down here than they are up north. Perhaps it’s me, and I just see things differently since becoming a Floridian, but I could swear that the skies full of cerulean blue and the wispy clouds are almost within reach. Perhaps it is me, and my fierce, tender heart taking notice.

Shanah Tovah.▲

BRIEFS

continued from previous page

conflict. (Edward Luttwak, senior associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, interviewed by Vanessa Tomassini, *Jerusalem Post*)

THE PALESTINIAN MARTYRS FUND IS FLUSH WITH BLOOD MONEY FROM AMERICA

Cash doled out to Palestinian terrorists and their families is blood money, and it’s to the shame of the U.S. government that some of that blood money is lifted from the pockets of Americans. The families of three Israeli Arabs who carried out the execution-style shootings of two Israeli Druze policemen at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem’s Old City are eligible for money from the Palestinian Martyrs Fund, as well as the families of the attackers who stabbed an Israeli policewoman at Damascus Gate in June. In this way, Palestinian leaders encourage acts of terrorism.

More than 20,000 Palestinian families receive monthly payments, according to the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. It’s a telling indicator that peaceful families with incomes under the poverty line receive smaller welfare payments than killers of Jews. The geopolitics of the Middle East may be complicated, but the morality of terrorism is not. It’s evil and U.S. dollars should not pay for it. (Editorial, *Washington Times*)▲

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Starting over

As God fashions something anew each day, so we can be born anew and our lives restored to wholeness through many possibilities. This is really the purpose of a New Year. A New Year expresses renewed hope and possibility. It is a new opportunity, a new beginning, a new start.

There is the story of one angry reader who stormed into a newspaper office waving the current edition, asking to see who wrote the obituary column. He was referred to a cub reporter to whom he showed the column, including his own obituary. He said, "You see I am very much alive. I demand a retraction!"

The reporter replied, "I never re-

tract a story. But I tell you what I'll do. I'll put you in the birth column and give you a fresh start!"

Today we are all being given the opportunity for a fresh start. We are being inscribed in the *Sefer Hahayim*, The Book of Life. We, then, must justify the gift of life. We do this in many ways: by being aware of its preciousness and its fragility; by developing to the fullest the potentialities and sensitivities that come with life; by putting the whole of our intelligence to work in sustaining and enhancing the conditions that make life possible; by cherishing the human habitat and shielding it from devastation and depletion; by using our free will to the utmost in advancing the cause of life; and, finally, by celebrating and enjoying life itself.

Rabbi Solomon Agin serves at Temple Shalom in Port Charlotte.

What do I ask from you?

"May you and yours be blessed with health and happiness throughout the coming year."

"May the blessings of health, peace and contentment be yours."

"May you be inscribed and sealed for a good, sweet year."

In this High Holiday season, wishes to friends and family for the upcoming year abound. And our wishes usually contain what we hope we will have in our own lives: health, happiness, prosperity. We are, in essence, blessing our friends and hoping that G-d will hear our blessings and fulfill them.

That's what we want from G-d. But what does G-d want from us?

The Jewish people were commanded to offer to G-d two lambs each day, one in the morning and one in the evening. The whole world and everything in it belongs to G-d, so why does He need our lambs? Is He maybe "hungry" that He needs two lambs every day?

G-d commanded us to bring sacrifices because He wants us to remember Him every day – and not just when we need Him. The Midrash (Tana D'Bei Eliyahu) records G-d's clarification of His position in this area. "I am not lacking anything," He tells the Jewish people. "My children, what do I ask from you? Only that you should love one another and respect one another."

We ask G-d for health. All He asks is that we love each other.

We ask G-d for good jobs. All He

asks is that we respect each other.

We ask G-d for emotional strength to get through hard times. All He asks is that we honor each other.

We ask G-d for children whom we can be proud of. All He asks is that we be kind to each other.

Day after day, year after year, we present our lists of requests of what we want from G-d and what we want G-d to give to our loved ones.

Like a child let loose in Toys "R" Us, we want this and that, and can't we get one of these and two of those?

And like the ever-patient parent, G-d says to us, "You are all My children. I would be happy to fulfill all of your requests. All I really need to see is that you treat each other with love and respect. That you are sensitive to each other's needs and that you care for one another. Would it be so terrible if you agree to disagree?"

Is this not what our parents wanted from us? Isn't it what all parents want from their children? "Don't give me the cards, the presents, the box of chocolates. Just be nice to each other. Just behave yourselves," our memory tapes replay. "Don't fight. Look, you made him cry! You don't have to like her, but you do have to be nice to her because she's your sister, she always was and she always will be!" "My children, what do I ask from you? Only that you love one another and respect one another."

Sisters and brothers, may we all be inscribed and sealed for a good and sweet year, a year of health and happiness and the ultimate happiness of the arrival of Moshiach, NOW.▲

Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz serves at Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida.



■ Rabbi Solomon Agin



■ Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz

Agnon again as the Days of Awe arrive

As the High Holy Days draw near, I am reading, as I have for each of the past forty-six years, *Days of Awe* by Israel's Nobel Prize-winning author, Shmuel Yosef Agnon.



■ Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

I read it each year because it is so rich that even after so many readings, I learn new things from it.

As much as the book means to me, the person who gave it to me means more.

It was a gift from my father's first cousin Dr. Judith Kaplan, whom I first met when I came to Israel as a rabbinical student in July 1970. Another of my father's cousins was to meet me at the airport, but there was a mix-up, and she was not there.

All I could think of was that my father had told me, "Judith is an angel."

Well, we would soon find out how this angel would react to a cousin she had never seen waking her up at three o'clock in the morning. I found the number and figured out how to use the strange Israeli public phones. My heart pounded as the phone rang.

Judith said, "Come immediately." Those were the most comforting words I could imagine. I got into a taxi, gave the driver the address in Tel Aviv, and before long I was at her door. She and her husband Lazer greeted me with hugs, kisses and genuine joy.

Lazer owned a thriving hardware store in the heart of Tel Aviv. Judith was a successful and busy dermatologist, but she was also a Jewish mother. Her first reaction after greeting me was, "You must be hungry; you have to eat." And I did.

The next day, Judith and Lazer sent me on my way to Jerusalem. I visited often, and I loved her very much.

A few months later, my father died, and I, heartbroken, went home for the funeral. I stayed home a month to be with my family. When I returned to Israel, Judith's house was once again my first stop.

She was there with love and comfort and took a full day out of her busy schedule to be with me. She had been very close to my father when they were children in Germany and told me wonderful stories about him as we walked along the beach in Tel Aviv.

The months passed, and when it was time for me to return to my studies in the United States, Judith gave me *Days of Awe* by S.Y. Agnon.

This year, my wife Vickie and I excitedly anticipate our first Days of Awe at Bat Yam Temple of the Islands. I hope the insights I gain from this year's rereading of my hardcover *Days of Awe* will inspire the members of my new community.

Oh, it was a softcover book when Judith gave it to me, with a cover price of \$2.95 back in 1971, but it fell apart from continual re-readings. The \$65 I paid to have it custom rebound with my name embossed on the cover is one of the most meaningful gifts I have ever given myself.

Judith has been gone for several years now, but I think of her every time I pick up *Days of Awe*. I think of her love and dedication and how she was there for me, not once but twice, when I needed her most. I think of her smile, and I pray that my efforts on Sanibel will be worthy of her blessing.▲

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

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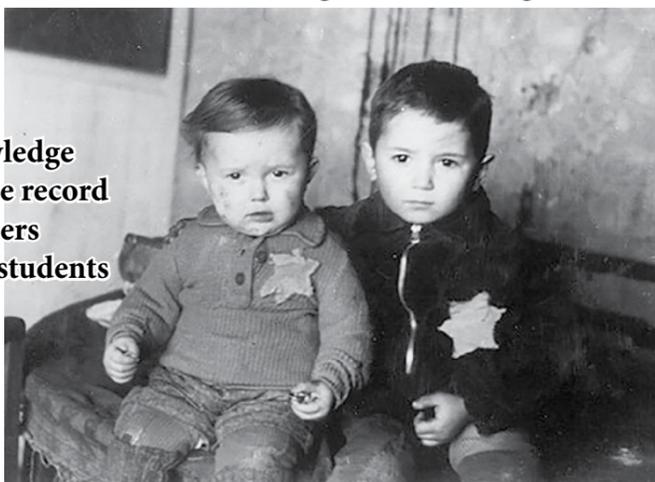
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September 29: 6:58

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Teshuva is a great task

As Jews we set a high bar for ourselves during the High Holidays. We pray for *teshuva*, repentance, a complete improvement of our personalities, habits and quirks. We atone for every sin imaginable, even those we know we didn't commit. We pray and worry about being entered in the Book of Life, inscribed for a year of life and health.

The High Holidays call us to be our absolute best, but we can acknowledge that this is an extremely difficult task. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur expect a lot from us. Not just service attendance, but deep spiritual change. Acknowledging our personal flaws, recognizing our mistakes, asking for forgiveness and granting forgiveness take courage and extreme self-awareness. Fortunately, our traditions offer us hope and comfort in the belief that God will help us on our journey, that God thinks it is possible and that God will be with us as we strive to become better versions of ourselves. The Shabbat before Rosh Hashanah we read in our Torah portion about following God's commandments:

"Surely, this Instruction which I enjoin upon you this day is not too baffling for you, nor is it beyond reach. ¹² It is not in the heavens, that you should say, "Who among us can go up to the heavens and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?" ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that

you should say, "Who among us can cross to the other side of the sea and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?" ¹⁴ No, the thing is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to observe it." (Deut 30:11-14)

Moral improvement, personal change, and forgiveness are God's commandments to us during the High Holidays. But God assures us that we are close to accomplishing them since they are already in our mouth and in our heart. Rather than having us feel overwhelmed or discouraged, God promises us that it is not beyond our reach. However, *teshuva* is still a great task, no matter how close we are to it. To accomplish it fully still seems to require divine assistance. And indeed, our tradition promises that God will help us in our quest:

"The Holy One, blessed be God, said to Israel: 'My children, present to me a single opening of repentance, small like the eye of a needle, and I will open for you entrances through which wagons and carriages can pass.'" (Shir Hashirim Rabbah 5:3)

As we enter into the Jewish season of moral improvement, may we approach our task with the assurance that it is possible to change, to become better people. The simple act of beginning, of making one small change, is enough to motivate God's divine help, remaking us as newly created beings, pure and in the image of God. May we have the self-awareness and the courage to begin.▲

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



■ Rabbi Nicole Luna

Free to be a Jew

People must be free to choose their own religion without asking permission or seeking approval. That is why I stopped presiding over formal conversions a number of years ago. I did not feel right serving as a "gatekeeper," nor did it seem fair to make newcomers jump through hoops in order to regard themselves and be recognized as Jews. (I leave that to those ultra-Orthodox political rabbis in Israel who are eager to control all aspects of everyone else's life.)

When people come to me to "become Jewish," I ask them if, in their heart of hearts, they already feel themselves to be Jewish. Most often the answer is "Yes." I then say, "So you are Jewish. Now let's learn how."

I encourage them to settle in to the life of the synagogue, join us as often as possible for our weekly Friday night dinners, participate in our many adult education classes and weekly Torah study, and come study with me as often as they'd like. I also urge them to try to connect to the people they meet and learn how they express their Jewish identities.

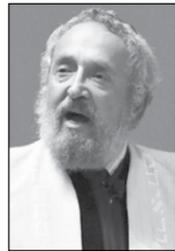
The one thing I don't do is make them undergo a Bet-Din, a formal Jewish tribunal that examines them and decides whether or not to allow them to be Jewish. If the men express the desire to undergo a Brit, we go to a doctor to

make those arrangements. If they will to undergo *Tvilah* (ritual immersion), we arrange for that in a proper body of water, but all that is up to them and none of anyone else's business.

I do want to go into the long and complicated history of Jewish conversion except to say that the early rabbis chose to make it a lot more restrictive than in the Bible for a number of reasons that are no longer relevant today.

In the Bible, the archetypical converts Jethro and Ruth sincerely declare their acceptance of the God of Israel as the one and only God and are accepted. Jethro offers sacrifices at the foot of Mt. Sinai and Ruth becomes the great-grandmother of King David. In neither case is their acceptance complicated by additional regulations. The same can be said by the many from Mesopotamia who chose to embrace our God and accompany us in our return to Judea after the Babylonian Captivity. This is what we find in Isaiah 56:5-6:

"Also the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants, everyone who keeps from profaning the Sabbath and holds fast My covenant; Even those I will bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples."▲ Rabbi Bruce Diamond serves at The Community Free Synagogue in Fort Myers.



■ Rabbi Bruce Diamond

What do you think?

L'CHAYIM wants to know!

Send your letters and comments to Ted Epstein, L'CHAYIM Editor, at LChayim36@gmail.com.

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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 LeniBSack@jfedlcc.org:

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TEMPLE BETH EL SCHOOLS Fort Myers

*Dale M. Cohen, R.J.E., M.A. Ed.,
Religious School Director*

Dear Parents of the Religious School:
It is so wonderful to hear the "pitter patter" of feet in our Religious School hallways. It is a great thrill to have all of our children, old and new, back into the swing of things. As I sit in my office writing this article, I am anticipating the holiday of Rosh Hashanah. It is truly my favorite time of the year! A time to invigorate, refresh and renew

ourselves as we forge into another year.

Please note: There will not be any Religious School on Sunday, September 3 in honor of Labor Day weekend, and on Wednesday, September 20 in honor of Rosh Hashanah. Please also note that the Religious School will be closed on Sunday, October 1 for the holiday of Yom Kippur.

This is the information for our High Holiday Junior Congregation Services:

- Thursday, September 21 – 1st day of Rosh Hashanah

- Saturday, September 30 – Yom Kippur
Rabbi Luna will announce where all of the children will be reporting to for their services.
 - Kindergarten and Grade One – Rm # 2 – with Morah Mackenzie Sax
 - Grades Two and Three – Rm # 1 – with Morah Amy Shinbaum
 - Grades Four through Six – Rm #s 3 and 4 – with Morah Dale Cohen – Any seventh graders who would like to attend will be more than welcome.
- As always, Larry Schoenfeld will come and read the Torah to all of the

classes. We are grateful to have him with us – as I call it, a "labor of love."
Junior Congregation will take place on Saturday, September 16. Please remember that this is a mandatory part of our curriculum to prepare our students with the Saturday morning liturgy for grades 4-7. Parents are always encouraged to attend and support.
I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students and their families a *Shanah Tovah Umetukah* (a Happy and a Sweet Year) filled with great health, love, prosperity and peace, and of course a great year at Temple Beth El Religious School.

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CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL Charlotte County

Welcome to Chabad Hebrew School, the most innovative Hebrew School in Charlotte County. Our school is a trendsetter in creative Jewish education for children ages 3 to 13. The Chabad Hebrew School offers an outstanding program that will give your child a solid foundation in the fundamentals of Judaism, and will instill in your child the faith, beauty and values of our heritage.

Our First Taste Program, for ages 3-5, gives children a great introduction to their wonderful heritage. Our Hebrew School Program is open for ages

6-13. Both programs begin on Sunday, September 17 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Please visit www.chabadofcharlottecounty.com for the school year calendar.

Our student body is made up of children from various backgrounds and affiliations. We encourage you, as a parent, to get involved, ask questions and keep in touch with our school. You may very well discover that your child's Hebrew School education at Chabad Hebrew School will add an enriching spiritual dimension to the lives of your entire family.

For more information, please call Sheina at 941.258.0188.

For a continuously updated calendar of events, visit www.JewishFederationLCC.org.

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SAT PREP CLASS Beginning Monday, August 21 to prepare for the October 7 SAT Test.

The Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties offers one of the best SAT Prep Courses in the area and at great value. We charge \$375 per student for the 13-class session. This includes study materials and snacks. A minimum of 8 students is required; maximum of 12. Each session includes 6 math classes and 7 verbal classes. Our teachers have vast experience in teaching the SAT Prep Class.

Classes are 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays

- August 21,22,28,29
- September 5,11,12,18,19,25,26 (no class on Labor Day)
- October 2,3

Contact Leni Sack to register or for more information: lenisack@jfedlcc.org or 239.481.4449 x3.

A registration form is also on the Federation website at www.jewishfederationlcc.org.

Classes are held at the Federation building at 9701 Commerce Center Ct., Fort Myers.



**TEMPLE JUDEA SCHOOLS
Fort Myers**

*Liz Singer,
Director of Congregational Learning*
Every spring, as I look ahead to planning the upcoming year, I always assess, what it is that Temple Judea needs to offer our students to help ensure that they have a strong connection to Judaism well into adulthood. What can Temple Judea give them that they won't get from other places? What tools will help them to navigate a Jewish life? Among my answers was finding a curriculum grounded in Jewish values and discovering a new way to address prayer.

In a recent article in *Jeducation World*, Shmuly Yanklowitz says that typically in Jewish educational experiences the focus is on everything but this. Hebrew linguistics, Israel engagement, Jewish history, comfort with Jewish culture...and yet character development is something that is ignored. One of the benefits of refining these practices by immersing students in the values that make our days richer, is that it allows students to relate to Judaism by finding these *middot* (values) within their daily lives. In our classrooms, the school year will rotate around seven core values that will connect to the holiday season. Values are further punctuated using stories from the Torah.

These classroom lessons in values are being taught to our students in tandem with our teachers participating in ongoing education that centers around

mindfulness, a technique that has been growing increasingly popular amongst mainstream educators. The Jewish community has a practice that feeds into this very well. It is called *mussar*. The concept of *mussar* recalls the style of prayer more authentic to the Temple era. A time when prayer was directed by the desires of the individual and was much more experiential. Initially, prayer was all about mindfulness, not mindlessness. The goal of Temple prayer was not to take anything for granted and to not forget to acknowledge everyone and everything involved in you being able to benefit.

To help with the implementation of this effort I am very excited to announce that Temple Judea has been accepted to participate in the Mussar Institute's: Mussar for Children Program. We were awarded this curriculum so that we might introduce it into our weekly Religious School prayer service.

This change will also impact the prayer experience at Temple Judea with the focus being centered around the meaning of the prayer, not just on the words. To teach *tefilla* (prayer) we will incorporate storytelling, activities and mindfulness practices. This weekly program is open to the congregation and community even though it is geared toward early learners. The hope is to help reintroduce spirituality into our sanctuary so that it might serve as a haven for our students and the larger community to be a place for all to seek

and find themselves. Everyone, regardless of age, can examine the messiness of the outside through taking an assessment of one's inside world. My goal is for the students to be the model of this self-reflection and lead the way for the adults in the community.

* * *

Temple Judea Preschool

*Joann Goldman, Temple Judea
Preschool Director*

This school year came quickly and our team has been hard at work creating a fun-filled and educational curriculum for all of our students. We have so many things planned for this school year. The curriculum and redesigned classrooms will focus on meeting your child's developmental needs and respecting the diversity of talents and interests that all of our children have. We look forward to continuing to serve the needs of the children and families at our center and we will provide the highest quality of care available. If you would like your child in a loving, nurturing and safe environment, Temple Judea Preschool is the right choice.

We will start off the month by learning that everyone is special. This is an important week because we will work on sharing, taking turns, and many other skills that we will continue to use throughout the school year. We will read many fun stories and even draw self-portraits.

We will begin our "study" of shapes, letters and numbers this month too. We will learn about all the colors around us and even create some new color names. The children will have

fun creating shapes and counting numbers. We are off to a great start.

**Toddler Time and
Toddler and Me classes**

Our Toddler Time classes will begin on Tuesday, September 5. If you would like to sing, dance, cook and create fun memories, join our class. It is a blast. Moms, dads, grandparents or caretakers are welcome to bring their children. It is a great way to have fun with old friends and meet new ones. The class time is from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. Please register at the preschool office.

Yoga

We are excited to bring yoga back to our school. The children are so excited to learn new poses while dancing to beautiful music. Miss Shana incorporates our themes into her yoga class. It is a great way to start off our day!

Art

The children have a beautiful art room where they can create beautiful masterpieces. It is a room where anything goes and you can get as messy as you want. We have all the latest art materials for the children to use and they can't wait to splatter, mix and recreate new colors. It is a fun room to enter!

Temple Judea Preschool is the place where children have tons of fun and are well prepared when they move on to elementary school. This is the foundation that a child needs. We are excited to lay the first brick in the foundation.

If you would like to learn more about Temple Judea Preschool, please call 239.482.1121.

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

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

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

**BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS
REFORM**
Meets at Sanibel Congregational Church 2050
Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island
Rabbi Stephen L. Fuchs
President: Alan Lessack
Phone: 239-579-0296 (Oct-Apr)
773-251-8862 (May-Sept)
Email: batyamsanibel@gmail.com
Cantorial Soloist: Gregory Watson
Web site: www.batyam.org
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday (Nov-Apr)
7:00 p.m. Friday (May-Oct)
Adult Education:
Saturday, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Nov-Apr)
Jewish Current Events: Saturday, 11:30 a.m.
to 12:15 p.m. (Nov-Apr)
Write: P.O. Box 84, Sanibel, FL 33957
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

**TEMPLE SHALOM CHARLOTTE
HARBOR AND THE GULF ISLANDS
REFORM**
23190 Utica Ave., P.O. Box 494675
Port Charlotte, FL 33949-4675
Rabbi Solomon Agin
President: Gary Wein
Phone: (941) 625-2116
E-mail: shalom06@netzero.com
Web site: templeshalomfl.com
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Religious school: Sunday 10 a.m.
Beginning Hebrew: Tuesday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.
Advanced Hebrew: Thursday 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.
Organizations: Sisterhood
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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

SHALOM LIFE CENTER

Fort Myers

(239) 218-3433

Lawrence & Robin Dermer

As we approach 5778 we're reminded that the beginning of a new year can be the time for renewal and a fresh start.

Teshuvah is commonly known to mean repentance, but it more accurately means returning. The new year can be viewed as an opportunity to return to who we were meant to be, our highest self. It is a time of reflection and turning inward to focus our energy on our spiritual self, those we care about and toward the Divine source of healing and hope.

During Shabbat Shuvah we learn about Moses telling B'nei Yisrael that he feels too old and lacks the vitality to be an effective leader. Although Moses feels despondent and almost gives up, he shares a powerful lesson for all of us about overcoming fear and self-doubt by becoming renewed and delivering a powerful sermon.

We often hold ourselves back by giving up even before we try, and all

of us are capable of much more than we think. The process of *teshuvah* reminds us that we're not alone in our efforts. G-d is our partner in all we do. Despite the hurt, pain and doubt we may have experienced throughout the year, G-d's presence gives us renewed faith and hope to believe in ourselves and accomplish great things.

We can be the biggest obstacle to discovery of our highest self. When we encounter difficulties, some of us stop believing in ourselves, others and even G-d. During the High Holy Days, we are called to return to faith even when we are disheartened and our situation feels hopeless. When we remember that G-d is our companion, wishing only for our success and happiness, we can be lifted from the deepest despair.

Created in G-d's image, we learn that as we lean on G-d we have each other to lean on! The greatest gift we can give others is our faith and our belief in them – our ability to see the good in them and look beyond their shortcomings, focusing on their potential. Surrounding ourselves with a

kehillah – a sacred community – a family that has faith in us can be the main ingredient in creating a positive path. The love of family and our people is eternal. The power of hope and faith can transform our lives and the lives of all we encounter. Unbound by the limitations and regrets of the past, there's always an opportunity for a new beginning. It's never too late for the expectation of growth as we ask for G-d's help in renewing ourselves and our world.

Just as our ancient traditions unite us with thousands of generations and bless us each year, our Shalom Life Center family nourishes our souls and fills our hearts with gratitude and love for our sacred community of faith. We invite you to share the High Holy Days with us as our cherished values are celebrated, and together we're blessed with the occasion to share a powerful and profoundly meaningful and spiritual experience beginning on Saturday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m. with our beautiful Selichot service and lavish dessert reception. All are welcome for Rosh Hashanah, Tashlich and Yom Kippur services in our comfortable and picturesque sanctuary.

While our message is traditional, our worship is contemporary and our services combine meaningful prayers and soaring melodies that feature the Shalom Life Center Choir and Musical Ensemble. Our Yom Kippur afternoon healing and meditative concert will highlight the magnificently talented Dr. Jonathan Daitch on the violin, and will be followed by afternoon Yizkor and Neilah concluding service and our third Annual Fabulous Break the Fast Feast! Dates and times can be found on our website.

For more information on joining us for the High Holy Days, please call 239.218.3433 or email info@shalomlifecenter.org.

With the call of the Shofar we pray that the timeless messages of our High Holy Days traditions – renewal and return, healing and transformation, the celebration of life's potential for fulfillment and joy – will offer everyone a spiritual journey blessed with opportunity for growth and meaningful insight.

Shanah Tovah Umetukah.

GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

(239) 963-9347

Outstanding variety of programs to be presented by GenShoah for 2017-18 season

Ida Margolis

Generations of the Shoah Southwest Florida (GenShoah SWFL) is pleased to announce its programs for the 2017-18 season. If you are a child of Holocaust survivors, have a relationship to the Holocaust, or simply have an interest in the Holocaust, you should be able to find a program that you will definitely want to attend. This season GenShoah is continuing to present public programs, but is also offering programs specifically for the Second Generation (2 gs). In the past, many GenShoah

SWFL programs filled up quickly, so mark your calendar and make reservations for the programs you will want to attend.

The first program for this season will be on Sunday, October 22 at 6:30 p.m. when the moving film *Irena Sendler: In the Name of Their Mothers* will be screened. This program is co-sponsored by the Catholic-Jewish Dialogue and will be held at St. Agnes Parish Center, 7775 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples. The story of Irena Sendler is an important one for many reasons.

In 1939, Irena was a young social worker in Warsaw. When the city's Jews were imprisoned in the ghetto, Irena appealed to her closest friends to help her smuggle in food and medicine, and smuggle out Jewish orphans. In a dangerous scheme, Catholic birth

certificates and identity papers were forged so that the children could be taken from safe houses in Warsaw to orphanages and convents.

Sendler and her colleagues took enormous risks as they kept detailed records of the children's Jewish names so they could be reunited with their parents after the war. They managed to save the lives of at least 2,500 Jewish children. Irena's story of heroism was suppressed during the Communist regime in post-war Poland, and for decades afterwards. Sendler's story and her capacity for moral courage is finally being told. For her courageous actions during the Holocaust, in 1965, Israel's Yad Vashem honored her as "Righteous Among the Nations." Sendler died in Warsaw in 2008. From September 5 to December 18 there will be an exhibit about Irena Sendler

at the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida, 4760 Tamiami Trail N, Ste. 7, Naples.

There is no charge for this program. RSVP to cjdialogue@naples.net. Tax-deductible donations so that GenShoah can continue to present exceptional programming are greatly appreciated and can be made to the Holocaust Museum.

Additional information about upcoming GenShoah programs will be featured in future editions of this newspaper and in the monthly GenShoah newsletter. To receive the GenShoah newsletter, for more information about GenShoah, or to become involved with this group, email genshoahswfl@gmail.com.

HUMANISTIC JEWISH HAVURAH of Southwest Florida

(239) 495-8484

Yom Kippur commemoration for secular humanistic Jews

Paula Creed

You are invited to attend the Humanistic Jewish Havurah Yom Kippur commemoration on Saturday, September 30 beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the East Clubhouse of Vi at Bentley Village. The evening will begin with a short *Nizkor*, a ceremony to preserve our memory of the dead. *Nizkor* ("Let us

remember") is a meaningful observance adopted by secular humanistic Jews to carry on the traditional observance that

ends Yom Kippur.

Immediately following this observance, a delicious break-the-fast will be served. The cost to participate in this event is \$30 per person payable to "HJH" and mailed to Maraline Rane, 6955 Carlisle Court, D-219, Naples, FL 34109. Reservations must be received by Monday, September 25.

For many Jews, the High Holidays are the two times during the year when

they feel compelled to do something Jewish. Secular Jews had trouble with the High Holidays from the beginning. As festivals of national liberation, Passover and Chanukah could easily be purified of supernatural connections. As nature holidays, Sukkot and Shavuot could, with little effort, be connected to the seasons and to all the secular responses they aroused.

But Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as they had evolved in the Judaism of the rabbis, seemed inseparable from supernaturalist tradition. There was no seasonal happening they pointed to. Both holidays were fraught with ideas of divine power and judgment, sin and repentance.

Early Jewish secularists discarded these holidays as hard-core traditionalism and irrelevant to the new secular nationalism.

Today, secular humanistic Jews incorporate the High Holidays into their Jewish observance, recognizing that their continuing hold is too strong to be ignored. But why do these holidays remain so compelling for Jewish humanists?

The Enlightenment and Emancipation undermined the old belief framework of the High Holidays and removed some of the dread. Divine recordkeeping, supernatural rewards and punishments, and the value of appeasement ceremonies seemed less credible than before.

Kol Nidre, with its dismissal of the binding character of promises, became a moral problem. Long confessions and breast-beating appeared unseemly. Even fasting developed a bad reputation, offending "rational" people who found no ethical value in self-inflicted suffering.

Humanistic dimensions appear throughout the traditional observance of the Days of Awe, despite the heavy emphasis on divine justice and divine mercy. Guilt leads to self-reflection and self-evaluation. Resolutions to improve behavior in the coming year are made. People seek out friends and neighbors to ask for forgiveness for past wrongdoings and to effect reconciliation.

While many secular Jews find the High Holidays too religious for their tastes, Humanistic Judaism realizes that these holidays have special significance. If human judgment replaces divine judgment, and if human power becomes the alternative to divine power, then Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur become perfect vehicles for celebrating a humanistic philosophy of life. It is appropriate for Jews at the time of the Jewish New Year to reflect on the moral quality of their behavior and to make decisions to improve it.

Introspection and goal setting are traditional. They are also humanistic.

Humanistic Judaism offers a positive voice about the Jewish present. The contemporary society of secular study, individual freedom, and sexual equality is morally better than societies that spawned the Torah and the Talmud. There is no need for reverent nostalgia and sentimental guilt.

We offer more future and less past. The scientific spirit refuses to worship the past and to imagine that the greatest wisdom was uttered 3,000 years ago. We must invent behavior to serve human needs – not make human lifestyles fit rigid, outdated behavior.

HAZAK 55+ CHAPTER at Temple Judea

(239) 433-0201

On Sunday, September 10 at 3:30 p.m., HAZAK members and guests will enjoy the last summer movie, *A Stranger Among Us*, at Temple Judea. The film is about a detective assigned to a case of a missing person, Yaakov Klausman, and then ultimately finds herself in the middle of a closely-knit community of Hassidic Jews. The cost for the movie, snacks and soft drinks is \$3 for HAZAK members and \$5 for guests. The group will have dinner after the movie at Sweet Tomatoes. For more information and to RSVP, contact Shirley Schiffman by Thursday, September 7 at 239.395.0135.

Save the Dates:

Saturday, December 30 is the annual HAZAK Shabbat service at Temple Judea. HAZAK members will participate in the service, have a special guest speaker, and sponsor the Kid-

dush. Join us on this very special day.

On Thursday, February 15 HAZAK will visit the Holocaust Museum &

Education Center of Southwest Florida in Naples. Car pools will be formed.

Temple Judea's active HAZAK Chapter is a chartered member of the USCJ. Dues are a modest \$5 per year per person. Membership in the organization is open to the community. Join HAZAK and meet new friends. The HAZAK Chapters are for singles or couples. It's an organization formed by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism to enable members to meet and socialize with each other. Our monthly programs vary in nature.

For additional information, please contact George or Joyce Rosinger at 239.437.1566, Bunny or Matt Lawrence at 239.245.7708, or Shirley Schiffman at 239.395.0135.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy, peaceful and sweet New Year. Shana Tova.

**JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

(239) 566-1771

Establishing the Jewish trail

Marina Berkovich

On July 27, at a *Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers: The Labodas of Fort Myers* film presentation at the *Naples Daily News* building, a remark from an audience member mesmerized me.

“Do you know how many Jews graduated in the very first West Point class?” she asked. I did not. An audible wave splashed through the rows of about seventy women and a few men, who never thought of this curious statistic either. “Fifty percent,” said the woman, whose husband, as it turned out, is a West Point grad, and that is why she proudly shares this fact.

“That’s why I know,” she said. “There were only two graduates and one was a Jew.” Everyone laughed, yet for days this seemingly unimportant information was on my mind, and I had to find out more.

Simon M. Levy is the Jewish half of the very first West Point graduating class of 1802. Painfully little is known about him. He served in the Army for three years after graduating, then resigned and died shortly thereafter. That’s all. Why do I find this man’s minimalistic bio so significant? Because I am on the side of every Jew who had to trail-blaze. I suppose at the time of the Napoleonic Wars no one took care to ask Mr. Levy any of the questions we ask our Jewish Historical Society Oral Visual Project participants or to record his words for posterity. I, for one, would have loved to know a few things more. Wouldn’t you?!

No one bothered to ask anyone anything before the 1950s, so if there were Jews right here in Southwest Florida since

Abraham Myers briefly passed through Fort Hendry, we have no record of them. Except that in 1941 a U.S. Air Force Chaplain was assigned to the Fort Myers area for several years, the duration of WWII. His name is unknown.

When the Labodas arrived in 1965, there were as many as three dozen Jews already living in the Fort Myers area and probably somewhat fewer in points south.

Rose and Sam Posner were the dry-goods shopkeepers. They established their first store in 1947, and are generally considered the Jewish patriarchs of Lee County. They were beloved by the entire community. In June, at the Southwest Florida Historical Society’s presentation of *The Labodas of Fort Myers*, a couple in their late-80s recalled the toaster they bought at that store when they were first married. When it stopped working ten years later, Sam Posner personally exchanged it for them for the identical one he had saved on one of his warehouse shelves. He refused to take money for it. The Posners were the family who first introduced the concept of “Jewish holidays” to residents of Southwest Florida. They took an ad in the paper announcing the store closure for Jewish High Holy Day observances. When they returned to their store, they were greeted by a winding line of customers who simply wanted to see Jews. Their business thrived in downtown Fort Myers and by 1952 they built a 70,000 sq. ft. two-story department store with

the first-ever escalator in Southwest Florida.

The Lipmans were the produce family, operating in Lee, Collier and Hendry counties, and much of Collier County’s early Jewish congregation thrived with their help. Lee Ratner, Jules and Jack Freeman, and Leonard and Jack Rosen were in real estate development since the 1950s. Lee Ratner was unsuccessful, perhaps, because he did not have a brother to confide and share this adventure and ventures with. Lehigh Acres has been a problem for him and for Lee County. The brother teams became hugely successful. The Freemans owned the land upon which Coconut Point now stands. The Rosens are properly credited with the development of Cape Coral in Lee County and Golden Gate in Collier County.

You can read and hear more of

these stories by visiting the Virtual Museum of Southwest Jewish History at www.jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org.

Our Mission

Collecting, protecting and preserving Jewish history to celebrate the contribution by Jews in Southwest Florida every day of every year is part of our mission.

Become a member of JHSSWF, a sponsor, business associate, volunteer and/or donor. Contact us at: The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida
899 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Suite 116, Naples FL 34108
239.566.1771

office@jhsswf.org ~ www.jhsswf.org

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida is a section 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

**Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida
Season of Events**

Wednesday, September 27 at 5:00 p.m.

at Jewish Federation of Collier County office

Screening of *The Labodas of Fort Myers*, film V in the Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers Series. Free admission. Light refreshments. Donations welcome. Learn about the early Jewish history of Southwest Florida from one of its most influential families. All JHSSWF films are locally produced, locally made, and about local history.

Wednesday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m.

at Jewish Federation of Collier County office

Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers Series. Free admission. Light refreshments. Donations welcome.

Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at Hilton Naples

Celebrate Florida Jewish History Month with Guest of Honor Murray Hendel, a premiere of the Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers film *Murray’s Mile*, and a delicious buffet brunch. Naples Mayor Bill Barnett is the honorary chairman, with Collier County Sheriff Kevin Rambosk, Rep. Frances Rooney and many other distinguished Collier County guests in attendance. Tickets may be purchased at <https://jhsmurrayhendel.eventbrite.com> or office@jhsswf.org. For program tributes and sponsorships, please call the organizing committee chair directly at 914.886.3771.

HADASSAH

Collier/Lee Chapter

(239) 370-6220

Gayle Dorio

The summer is ending and snowbirds are returning. Our “season” is beginning anew. Welcome back! We hope you are ready to join your Hadassah family at our luncheons and activities.

It’s that time of year! We will soon be celebrating the High Holy Days. This year, 5778, Rosh Hashanah begins on Wednesday evening, September 20. On behalf of everyone in my family and my Hadassah family, may your New Year be a healthy, happy, joyous and peaceful one with blessings in abundance!

There are many reasons to celebrate this new year. There are also many reasons to work harder to repair our world. As we examine the past year – its positives and negatives

– let’s hope we will do better. We can strive for more understanding and renewed energy to continue *tikkun olam*.

As you know, the days before the High Holy Days are to be spent in introspection. I would like to offer two excerpts that have been affixed to my refrigerator and I strive to follow them.

The first is “Do Your Part” – Consider these six steps to help change and heal the world: 1. Live in harmony – Choose to see the good in yourself and others rather than finding fault. 2. Practice kindness – Reach out to others. 3. Extend compassion – Try to live up to Mother Teresa’s advice to “find someone who thinks he is alone, and let him know that he is not.” 4. Listen – Be fully present. 5. Forgive. 6. Make amends. It is the highest form of self-respect to admit mistakes and to make amends for them.

The second is “Guideposts for

Wholehearted Living:” 1. Cultivate authenticity – let go of what people think. 2. Cultivate self-compassion – let go of perfectionism. 3. Cultivate a resilient spirit. 4. Cultivate gratitude and joy. 5. Cultivate intuition and trust faith. 6. Cultivate creativity – let go of comparison. 7. Cultivate play and rest. 8. Cultivate calm and stillness – let go of anxiety as a lifestyle. 9. Cultivate meaningful work. 10. Cultivate laughter, song and dance.

I am inspired when I read *Hadassah* magazine. It is an award-winning publication filled with interesting articles. After reading an issue, I continue with renewed energy supporting this amazing organization. I love when people tell me they go to www.hadassah.org and read news-breaking articles. The website is a treasure trove of people who are making a difference in the world.

Our Hadassah guide tells us: “Women join Hadassah for many rea-

sons. They want a sense of community and shared purpose. They roll up their sleeves and make an impact. They are committed to Jewish continuity. They are concerned about the health and well-being of women young and old. They are passionate about Israel.”

We try to be better each day – and learn from yesterday. I pray that those that hurt us learn to do better and someday change their behavior. I pray that we understand that sometimes life isn’t fair, but we must continue on, and do the best we can. I pray that joy, friendship, health and happiness fill our lives and that we reach out to help others as Hadassah women: The Power of Women Who Do.

My husband and I are off to Israel on a Hadassah mission from October 18 to November 2. I am excited and can’t wait to go! I’ll be full of stories and share the experience when we return! L’Shanah Tovah! Best Wishes and see you soon!

**ZIONIST ORG. of AMERICA
Southwest Florida Chapter**

(914) 329-1024

ZOA of SWFL programming

for upcoming season

Jerrold L. Sobel

Wednesday, November 8:

A screening of the critically-acclaimed movie *Faithkeepers*. *Faithkeepers* is a documentary produced by Jerusalem U, the creators of other award-winning works such as *Mekonen*, *Beneath the Helmet* and *Crossing the Line*. It depicts the physical, religious and cultural genocide being inflicted in Iraq by ISIS and other extremist groups.

Dr. Zuhdi Jasser, President of the American-Islamic Forum for Democracy, endorsed the film as follows: “*Faithkeepers* is a timely film that raises public awareness of the plight of minorities under the oppressive forces of Islamist movements and their regimes.”

Wednesday, December 6:

Guest lecturer Dr. Shoula Romano Horing: Dr. Horing was born and raised in Israel, and is an attorney, law professor,

radio show host, opinion columnist and national public speaker that has lived in the United States since 1980. Her political articles are regularly published in *Ynetnews*, the most popular English language Israeli newspaper, as well as *USA Today*, *the Kansas City Star*, *the Jewish Press*, *the KC Jewish Chronicle* and other Jewish journals. Her topic for discussion will be “For the Foreseeable Future: No Chance For Peace or Ultimate Deal.”

Wednesday, January 10, 2018:

Dr. Asaf Romirowsky: For all those in the Israeli advocacy community, this man does not need much of an introduction. Asaf Romirowsky is a Middle East researcher. He is an adjunct scholar at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Middle East Forum. He is a former IDF (Israel Defense Forces) International Relations

liaison officer in the West Bank and to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He also holds a BA from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, master’s degrees from Villanova University and West Chester University, and a doctorate from Kings College London. His topic of discussion will be “Nakba: The Source of Arab Israeli Conflict.”

Wednesday, February 21, 2018:

Dr. Samuel Edelman: Dr. Edelman is currently the academic consultant for the Israel on Campus Coalition, former executive director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, and former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the American Jewish University (formerly the University of Judaism) in Los Angeles. He is also a CSU Chico emeritus professor of Jewish, Israel and Holocaust Studies, as well as Rhetoric and Communication Studies. His topic of discussion will be “Zionism and Jewish Identity: Who We Really Are.”

Wednesday, March 14, 2018:

Colonel Ralph Peters: Once again not

much introduction needed here. In co-sponsorship with Chabad of Naples, famed military analyst and FOX News contributor Colonel Ralph Peters is a retired United States Army lieutenant colonel and author. He has published numerous essays on strategy in military journals such as *Parameters*, *Military Review* and *Armed Forces Review*. He formerly wrote a regular opinion column for the *New York Post* and has written essays and columns for many other journals. His topic of discussion will be “A World on Fire: Strategic Challenges for the United States and Israel.”

All the above ZOA events are held at Chabad Jewish Center of Naples at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person for each ZOA event except Col. Peters, which is \$30; \$7 per student admission.

For more information, or to make a payment and reservation, contact Jerry Sobel at jerrysobel@aol.com or 914.329.1024.

TEMPLE BETH EL
Fort Myers**(239) 433-0018**
www.templebethel.com

As we wind down from a long, hot summer, we gear up for the very active High Holy Day season. It's a special time at Temple Beth El as we prepare for our Selichot dessert reception, Rosh Hashanah services, Taschlich and lunch at Lakes Park, Memorial Service at our Garden of Memories Cemetery, Yom Kippur services, Break Fast dinner, Sukkot in our Sukkah, and Simchat Torah dinner and dancing with the Torah.

We invite you to join us for services as we welcome our High Holy Day Cantor, Susan Berkson from Maryland. Cantor Berkson is highly acclaimed, having received her Honorary Doctor of Music from Hebrew Union College. She also enjoys performing a Yiddish

Art Song recital in a variety of venues and has a CD of Jewish liturgical music available in Judaica stores. Also returning to mesmerize us with his beautiful music is Eric Dochinger, cellist with the Artis Naples Philharmonic. High Holy Day tickets are available for purchase by nonmembers, visitors and guests by calling the temple office at 239.433.0018.

We were enlightened by our TBE Shabbat Summer Liturgy Series Services as each week Rabbi Nicole Luna offered commentary and reflections on a particular liturgical section to help deepen our understanding of the sacred words of the liturgy. We were also delighted to welcome back the very popular Jane Galler as our summer guest Cantorial Soloist for three services, the final one being August 18 as we enjoyed a community pizza celebration Shabbat dinner prior to services.

Sisterhood's monthly mah jongg

tournaments have returned after a summer hiatus. Please contact Karen Weiss at knweiss61@gmail.com to register for the games. Mid-week Hebrew as well as Sunday Religious School and our Learning Tree Preschool classes have also resumed. We are excited about participating in events which will help our congregation experience the joy and fulfillment of *tzedakah* initiated by our Social Action Committee under the leadership of member Doreen Kostel. There is a lot happening at TBE, from our weekly Saturday Torah Study and Liturgy and Life classes with Rabbi Luna to our monthly Lunch and Learn, Machers and Mavens Book Club, Shmoozers Dinners, programming from Men's Club and Sisterhood. Details can be found on our website at www.templebethel.com.

Temple Beth El is proud of the continuing success of our Gift Gallery, located in our lobby. We invite you to visit as our store managers and buyers, Louise and Dani Weiner, display the

widest selection of Judaica in our area. The Gift Gallery has new merchandise for the holidays including a full range of Judaica gifts, jewelry, greeting cards, books, talits, kippots and an array of traditional to handmade contemporary works of Israeli, American and local artisans.

This summer we had to say so-long to Susie Ferkel, who recently moved from Fort Myers to The Villages in Central Florida. Susie was a committed volunteer at Temple Beth El and the Jewish Federation. We wish her mazel in her new venture. She will be missed. On this note, TBE is delighted to welcome new members Henry and Barbara Betchen, Marcy Friedland, Gary and Hilary Kutner, Ryan Johnson-Segal, Larry and Tobi Morgan, Barry and Debra Weiss, Karen Whitman, Jason and Rachel File, and Eric and Alyssa Raab. We look forward to providing the warmth and community they seek at Temple Beth El.

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

It is hard to believe that summer is over and the holidays are upon us. The holidays at Temple Beth Shalom are really special. We are a small congregation where guests are welcomed and nobody is a stranger. We invite nonmembers to join us for any or all

of the holidays this year to enjoy our beautiful choir, friendly congregation and our very special rabbi.

The Temple Beth Shalom holiday schedule is below. Please call the office at 239.772.4555 for ticket information and Break-the-Fast reservations.

Selichot

Saturday evening, September 16
Coffee & Dessert beginning at 8:00 pm
Havdalah and Selichot Service begin-

ning at 8:30 pm

Rosh Hashanah Services

Wednesday, September 2 at 7:30 pm
Thursday September 21 at 10:00 am
Children's Service at 11:00 am
Light luncheon and Taschlich Ceremony following the morning services at Temple Beth Shalom

Cemetery Visitation Service

Sunday, September 24 at 11:00 am
Coral Ridge Cemetery (Chiquita and Pine Island Rd.)

We will gather at the gate of the "Beit Hakodesh" to remember and honor our

dearly departed loved ones, no matter where they are buried.

Yom Kippur Services

Kol Nidre, Friday, September 29 at 7:30 pm

Yom Kippur, Saturday September 30

Morning Service, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Children's Service 11:00 am

Afternoon Services:

Mincha at 3:30 pm, followed by

Yizkor Memorial and Neilah Services

Concluding Shofar and Havdalah

Break-the-Fast at sundown (reservations required)

TEMPLE SHALOM
Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands**(941) 625-2116**
www.templeshalomfl.com

The month of September is filled with observances. On Saturday, September 16 there will be Selichot Services starting at 6:30 p.m., with a dairy meal to follow. Jane Galler will assist Rabbi Agin. The program is to be determined.

Erev Rosh Hashanah Services will be on September 20, starting at 8:00 p.m., with a special New Year Oneg to follow.

Rosh Hashanah Services will be on September 21, starting at 10:00 a.m. A congregational lunch at the Kingsway Country Club will be at 1:00 p.m. (Reservations are required.) Tashlich Services will be at 4:00 p.m. at Laishley Pier.

The annual Memorial Service will take place at Restlawn Cemetery on Sunday, September 24 at 11:00 a.m.

Kol Nidre Shabbat Services will be held on Friday, September 29 at 8:00 p.m.

Yom Kippur Shabbat Services will be held on Saturday, September 30 starting at 10:00 a.m.; Children's Services at 2:45 p.m.; Afternoon and Yizkor Services at 4:00 p.m.; Concluding Services at 5:15 p.m.

Alex Michael Quintero will be

called to the Torah on Saturday, September 9 at 10:30 a.m. as a Bar Mitzvah. He is the son of temple member Michelle Berzak, and will lead Services on Friday evening.

Mid-week religious school classes will be under the direction of Gaye Druker. Applications for Beginner's Hebrew and Advanced Hebrew are being accepted. Please call the temple office for further information.

CHABAD
Charlotte County**(941) 833-3381**
www.chabadofcharlottecounty.com

High Holidays with Chabad is an experience you don't want to miss. All are welcome. Whether your background in Jewish prayer and practice is extensive or limited, the services will leave you feeling enriched, connected, uplifted and energized to start your New Year in a most meaningful way. There is no seat charge; donations are greatly appreciated. Hebrew/English prayer books will be provided. For more information, call 941.833.3381 or email info@chabadofcharlottecounty.com.

All holiday services will be held at The Chabad Center, 204 E McKenzie St., Unit B, Punta Gorda.

Wishing the entire Jewish community a Shana Tova, a Happy and Sweet New Year.

Rosh Hashana Eve

Wednesday, September 20
Services 7:00 PM

Rosh Hashana Community Dinner following services at approximately 8:00 PM

RSVP by September 17 to 941.833.3381

Rosh Hashana Day One

Thursday, September 21
Morning Service 10:00 AM

Blowing of the Shofar 12:15 PM
Services followed by Kiddush and Tashlich

Rosh Hashana Day Two

Friday, September 22

Morning Service 10:00 AM

Blowing of the Shofar 12:15 PM

Yom Kippur Evening - Kol Nidrei

Friday, September 29

Services 7:00 PM

Yom Kippur Day

Saturday, September 30

Shacharit (morning service) 10:00 AM

Yizkor (memorial service) 12:30 PM

Mincha and Neilah (closing service) 5:30 PM

Shofar and Break the Fast 7:50 PM

Sukkot! The Holiday of Joy

Sukkot is a festival of seven days beginning on 15 Tishrei (October 4),

and takes its name from the temporary dwelling (sukkah) in which one lives during this period. This festival is marked for its special joy (*zeman simchateinu* - time of our rejoicing) and by the mitzvah of the four species.

If you would like to join us in the sukkah and/or buy your own set of Lulav and Esrog, call Chabad at 941.833.3381.

On Thursday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m., join us for a Simchat Torah to remember with dancing, L'chaim, Mitzva Auction and a light buffet.

On Friday, October 13, join us for a Simchat Torah Day Celebration as we finish and restart the Torah with dancing, L'chaim and a special Simchat Torah Kiddush!

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

Friday Night: Welcoming the Shabbat Services September 7:00 p.m., October 6:30 p.m.

Saturday Morning: Kabbalah Class 9:00 a.m., Schacharit (Hodu) 10:00 a.m., Children's Program from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Kiddush at noon

High Holiday Schedule:

Sunday, September 17: Selichot services at 1:25 a.m.

Wednesday, September 20: Rosh Hashana Evening services at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 21: 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.

Friday, September 22: 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.

Friday, September 29: Kol Nidre/ Yom Kippur services at 6:30 p.m., Children's Program from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 30: 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 7:48 p.m.

Wednesday, October 4: Sukkot services at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 5: 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 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 6: 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 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 11: Shmini Atzeret services at 6:30 p.m., Rabbi's

Birthday Party

Thursday, October 12: 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, services at 6:30 p.m. Followed by a Grand Simchat Torah Party

Friday, October 13: Sukkot/Simchat Torah Kabbalah 9:00 a.m., Services at 10:00 a.m., Children's Program from 10:00 a.m. to noon, services at 6:30 p.m.

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

TEMPLE JUDEA

Fort Myers

(239) 433-0201

www.tjswfl.org

Temple Judea religious school students and their families will be “finding their inner superheroes” on Sunday, August 27 as they celebrate the beginning of the school year at this Open House program. The event is open to all families of the community interested in learning more about Temple Judea’s innovative and enriching education program.

Our monthly musical Shabbat returns on Friday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m. Come a little early to enjoy cheese, wine and good company before worshipping together in a lively, spiritual and entertaining service.

A Membership Open House is planned for Sunday, September 10 at

10:00 a.m. Meet the professional staff, as well as members of the synagogue, to find out about this progressive, Conservative congregation and all it has to offer.

Congregants continue to volunteer each month at Sally’s Café, a Salvation Army-sponsored program to feed the homeless and those in need. To volunteer, call the synagogue office. Volunteers are needed for the following Sunday evenings: August 27, September 10, September 24 and October 8. Just call the synagogue office to volunteer.

The High Holy Days are just weeks away. On Saturday, September 16 at 9:00 p.m. the synagogue will hold a Selichot reception, concert and service. The synagogue is honored to host violinist Jonathan Daitch and his accompanist. The event is open to the community and there is no cost to attend.

Please refer to the ad in this issue of L’CHAYIM for times of all the High Holy Day services. If you are not a member, but interested in attending any of the holiday services, just call the synagogue office for more information.

Volunteers are needed to help build the synagogue sukkah on Sunday, October 1 at 10:00 a.m. On Friday evening, October 6, the religious school will have a Consecration Ceremony for those students beginning their formal education, followed by a Sukkot dinner. Reservations for the dinner are required.

As mentioned in last month’s column, Temple Judea members are excited to welcome *sh’lichah* Zohar Ben Hamu, who is arriving in Fort Myers at the end of August. We look forward to Zohar helping to foster a strong connection for our synagogue and for our community with Israel. More details about Zohar and her role as an emis-

sary for Israel can be found in an article about her in this issue.

Join Rabbi Marc Sack as he resumes his monthly Torah study session on Thursday, September 7 at noon at the offices of Myers and Brettholtz and Company. It is an hour of open discussion of Torah and Judaism where all levels of background and all questions are encouraged. Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to attend.

For more information about Temple Judea or upcoming programs, call or email the synagogue office.

Regularly scheduled events:

- Friday evening Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday morning Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m.
- Lunctime Torah study with Rabbi Sack the first Thursday of each month
- Morning minyan every Monday at 9:00 a.m.

COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE

Fort Myers

(239) 466-6671

www.fortmyerssynagogue.com

All High Holiday events and worship services are free and open to all.

A Selihot service begins at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 16. Selihot are penitential prayers and hymns offered at the beginning of the week which includes Rosh Hashanah, setting the tone for the Days of Awe. The service will be preceded by a Melaveh Malkah and Havdalah at 7:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah worship begins at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 20, and continues the following morning at 10:00 a.m. Tashlikh (casting sins into a body of water) and the Rabbi’s open house New Year’s reception starts at 4:00 p.m. at the Rabbi’s residence in the Forest Country Club.

Yom Kippur worship begins at

7:30 p.m. on Friday, September 29, and continues the next morning at 10:00 a.m. An afternoon study session with the Rabbi on the laws of repentance starts at 2:30 p.m.

Worship, including Yizkor, resumes at 4:00 p.m. After Ne’ilah (concluding service), a complimentary break-the-fast will be served to all in attendance, sponsored by the families of this year’s adult B’not Mitzvah, Linda Shuster and Nancy Schwartz.

The congregation will top off the synagogue’s sukkah at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 4, and then welcome the Festival of Sukkot.

Rabbi Bruce Diamond will begin a two-year Cantor’s Certification program at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10 at his home. The curriculum includes prayerbook Hebrew literacy; the laws and structure of Jewish worship and life-cycle events; liturgical, Torah and Haftarah and cantillation

skills; sight-reading music; and voice lessons and practicum. While there here is no cost for this program, participants will share the expense of a professional voice teacher. Certified graduates will make a year’s commitment volunteering to assist worship and life-cycle events at the synagogue. For more details or to register for the program, email synfree@comcast.net.

Rabbi Diamond will be leading another Israel Pilgrimage from June 3-13 in 2018. In the past, he conducted these highly-acclaimed tours every other year, having recently completed C.F.S’ 5th Pilgrimage in June. Owing to popular demand, the next tour, limited to 28 participants, has been moved up by a year. For more information and registration, visit www.fortmyerssynagogue.com.

Each Friday at 6:30 p.m., The Community Free Synagogue serves a traditional Sabbath dinner. It is free and reservations are never required. At 7:30 p.m., the Sabbath is welcomed

with prayer and song. A coffee hour follows worship.

Every Saturday at 9:30 a.m., C.F.S. offers a light breakfast followed by a lively discussion of the week’s Torah portion led by Rabbi Diamond until 11:30 a.m.

Now in its 13th year, The Community Free Synagogue, the county’s largest Jewish congregation, is a not-for-profit open community religious resource led by Rabbi Bruce Diamond, D.D., who marks his 20th year in Fort Myers. Assisting Rabbi Diamond are C.F.S. auxiliary Rabbis Terri Goldberg and Thomas Miess.

All of its events and programs, including youth and adult Jewish education, are open to all and always free. The synagogue meets at the Southwest Florida Masonic Center, 10868 Metro Parkway in South Fort Myers. For more information, please visit www.fortmyerssynagogue.com.

BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

Sanibel

(773) 251-8862

www.batyam.org

Temple Bat Yam welcomes Rabbi Stephen Fuchs and his wife Vickie to the community for the beginning of a new cycle of rabbinic leadership and for the start of the Jewish calendar year 5778.

As a means of establishing the appropriate state of mind for the High Holy Days season and also interacting with the year-round congregants and visitors, Rabbi Fuchs is conducting a special Selichot service at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 16. Selichot are special prayers and poems that are specifically tailored to help worshipers direct their hearts and minds to the process of repentance.

According to Rabbi Fuchs, the Days of Awe call for a mindset different from the rest of the year when we hope to convince everyone how worthwhile we are. The Days of Awe call on us to strip away the veneer and to

acknowledge that we are all imperfect human beings who make mistakes and want and need to improve in the year ahead.

For the High Holy Days from September 20 to September 30, Rabbi Fuchs will be joined by Cantorial Soloist Gregory Watson and by pianist Abigail Allison as musical accompanists.

The sermons that Rabbi Fuchs is preparing to present are: “Why did Rosh Hashanah become so important?”; “The binding of Isaac, our most troubling story”; “The magic word for repentance”; “Jonah’s message to us”; “Where are our relatives now?”

The schedule of High Holy Days services is as follows:

- September 16 – 7:30 p.m. – Selichot service
- September 20 – 7:30 p.m. – Erev Rosh Hashana service
- September 21 – 10:00 a.m. – Rosh Hashana morning service, 1:30 p.m. – Tashlich service at waterside location announced by Rabbi Fuchs
- September 22 – 7:30 p.m. – Friday

night Shabbat service
September 29 – 7:30 p.m. – Kol Nidre service

September 30 – 10:00 a.m. – Yom Kippur morning service and congregants’ hour

3:00 p.m. – Music and meditation with cellist Susannah Kelly and Abigail Allison

4:00 p.m. – Yom Kippur afternoon service including Yizkor/Memorial service and Ne’ilah/closing service

6:00 p.m. – Break-the-fast in Heron Hall (reservations required)

All services take place at the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, 2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, where members of the community, guests and visitors are welcome to join with congregants. Tickets are not required for services but donations are always appreciated. For those in-

terested in partaking in the Break-the-fast, please check www.batyam.org for details and cost.

For those intrepid congregants who volunteered to lead Friday night services since the departure of Rabbi Myra Soifer at the end of April, kudos are in order. As of Friday, September 15, the 7:00 p.m. summer “off season” start time will conclude and Friday night Shabbat services will begin at 7:30 p.m. with Rabbi Fuchs at the pulpit. Saturday morning Adult Education programming will start again on Saturday, November 4. Topics and times will be provided next month.

We extend best wishes for a healthy and peaceful New Year to all of our Temple Bat Yam family and friends whether in SWFL or elsewhere in the country or abroad. We look forward to having everyone together again soon.

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

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



Send an email to lenibsack@jfedlcc.org



JEWISH FEDERATION FOOD PANTRY



- Following is a list of staples always in need at the food pantry:
- Peanut butter and jelly*
 - Rice and beans*
 - Cereal*
 - Condiments*
 - Pasta sauce (pasta, not needed)*
 - Canned vegetables and fruits*
 - Canned meats*
 - Toiletries for adults & children*

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

The beginning
of a New Year.
Blessings of health
and Prosperity
The holiday table
graced with challah,
honey, sweet apples,
and even sweeter company.
Pomegranate seeds
rolling off the counter
Another chance
to begin
anew.



Have a sweet year. And share what Rosh Hashanah means to you.
#RoshHashanahPublix

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