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Our origin story

By Brian Simon, Federation President

Every superhero has an origin story. Spiderman got bit by a radioactive spider. Superman's father sent him to Earth from the planet Krypton. Barbra Streisand won a talent contest at a gay nightclub in Greenwich Village.



■ Brian Simon

Our Jewish Federation has its own origin story. There had already been a United Jewish Appeal effort in Lee County. Liz Shevach and Sheila Laboda wanted

to start a High School in Israel program, and they felt they needed a local Federation to do that. So they started one. The program sent both Jews and non-Jews to study in Israel.

Once the Federation began, it quickly grew and took on new dimensions – dinner programs, a day camp, a film festival and Jewish Family Services. We have sponsored scholarships and SAT prep classes for high school students (both Jews and non-Jews). We stopped short of building a traditional Jewish Community Center.

The one constant has been support for, and connection to Israel. The Joseph Horowitz Travel Grant assists

people 25 years old or younger to travel to Israel to participate in volunteer or educational programs. The Federation allocates 20% of its annual budget through the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) to social service needs in Israel, as well as to support Partnership Together (P2G) – our “living bridge” relationship with the Hadera-Eiron Region in Israel.

In the comics, origin stories help explain a character's motivation, and the hero grows over time as he or she gains new responsibilities. In real life, it works the same way.▲

Senior Lunch Bunch update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

The senior luncheon started over three years ago as an opportunity for isolated Jewish seniors to have a meal and be in community together. This free monthly event has



■ Jodi Cohen

transformed into what I can only describe as a monthly *simcha*, a joyous occasion. The senior luncheon has become a festive gathering for people who have just moved to town, feel like spending time with other Jewish seniors, are isolated; and for people who want to volunteer by driving someone to the lunch, bringing dessert, helping with set up and clean up, and who want to visit with seniors during the lunch.

Lunches rotate between synagogues and senior living facilities in and around Fort Myers and Cape Coral. Jason's Deli is our main community partner, providing delicious sandwiches, soups and desserts. We have pizza

from time to time. There is always a short program after the lunch. Previous programs have included talks from rabbis, a magician, a slide show from an artist, and a speaker about safety.

The vibe is friendly and warm. From the moment you walk in and get your name tag, you are enveloped in the community. We try to assign “lunch buddies” to those who are attending the lunch for the first time. Volunteers are available to get food and drinks for those who need assistance. It is very *fraylach*. I keep expecting someone to get up and start dancing the hora at some point.

If you would like to attend the lunch or volunteer, please contact me at jodicohen@jfedlcc.org or 239.481.4449 x2.▲



The Jewish Federation's Annual Meeting



Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Program



Israel Scouts rock Fort Myers at Temple Beth El



Florida Governor Ron DeSantis plants roots in Israel

Have an item you'd like to share?
Need to reach the editor of L'CHAYIM?
Send an email to LChayim36@gmail.com.

NEXT SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH:
Thursday, July 18 at 12:30 p.m.
Amavida Senior Living, 7650 Gladiolus Dr., Fort Myers
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To strengthen and enrich the Jewish Community by providing and supporting philanthropic, educational and social service programs locally, in Israel and throughout the world.

OUR VISION
A Jewish Community that is based on Jewish values such as Tzedakah (benevolence), Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and K'lal Yisrael (taking responsibility for one another).

L'CHAYIM

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

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Program notes

By Debbie Sanford, Program Director

In May, the Jewish Federation held its Annual Meeting at FineMark Bank (see photos below). Just a day before Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, the Federation went all out to celebrate Israel's birthday. With Israeli music and delicious food, guests also had the pleasure of viewing a new short film by Oscar-winning director Guy Nativ.



■ **Debbie Sanford**

A new slate of Board of Directors was introduced, and we welcomed new board member Robert Thomas. Brian Simon, Federation President, welcomed guests and remarked on a great year of programming, thanked the hard-working Federation staff and executive director, and gave a preview of what the future holds for the Jewish Federation.

Special thanks to FineMark Bank for your hospitality and talented chef Jill for the delicious falafel and Israeli treats.

Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Program
Thank you to our partner, Temple Judea, for hosting the Annual Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Program on April 28. Jewish organizations and individuals from all over came to commemorate and honor the six-million Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

This year we were very fortunate to have with us as a guest speaker, Holocaust survivor Renee Beddoug, a hidden child from France. Renee told the audience how her family paid for a safe passage for her to live with a non-Jewish family for a few years. They saved her life and she would later build a relationship with them. Both of Renee's parents perished, but Renee was fortunate to have connected with other family members over the years. Renee was married and enjoyed a wonderful life, most of it spent in New York.

The event (see photos on next page) concluded with a candle lighting ceremony and the beautiful voices of the Temple Beth Shalom's adult choir. Thank you to all who contributed to the program. ▲

Federation's Annual Meeting



Federation board members: Robert Thomas, Karin Fine, President Brian Simon, Michele Laboda, Barbara Siegel, Sara Krivisky, Sylvia Simko, Rozzi Osterman, Marsha Kistler, Jerry Greenfield and Andi Horowitz (photos courtesy Naomi Thompson)



Mindi and Brian Simon



Betty Rubinstein and Barbara Siegel



Naomi Thompson and Karin Fine



Charisse and Robert Thomas



Aliza Brownell and Sasha Zuckerman



Lori Ramos, Debbie Sanford, Ian Sanford

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

Jewish Family Services update

By Jodi Cohen, Senior Outreach & Food Pantry Coordinator

One Wednesday in May, a client called about coming to the food pantry, but said that first he had to figure out if he had enough gas to get here and back. I told him that if he could make it to the Federation, I'd be able to give him a gift card for gas. I gave him the card as soon as he arrived and he threw his arms around me and cried. While his disability claim has been approved, payment hasn't started. He's been out of work for a few months, and has gone through his savings. While wiping his eyes he said, "You have no idea how much this helps."

One food pantry client who comes every month said, "My brother died quick. Thank you for this food because now I am feeding his kids too."

People on fixed incomes struggle when rent or the cost of medicine increases. One client who hadn't been to the pantry in months came in recently,

talking about the disparity between income and expenses. There are a few items that don't regularly get packed in the food bags for clients. When I asked this client if she could use some of the more unusual items that have been donated, she said, "Give me anything that you can spare. The rule in our house is that if we have it, we eat it."

Due to your generous support of the Federation, the Marcia Can Help Fund is able to assist people in Lee and Charlotte counties of any religion, background or age who need help on an emergency basis. In May, the Jewish Federation was able to help clients stay in their apartment, keep the water and lights on, and buy fresh food for a family with six children. We distributed food to 72 people in May, 32 of whom were children.

The food pantry volunteers rock. They schlep, pack, lift, clean and organize our small but mighty food pantry. Thank you to Donna Cotler, Larry Epstein, Carolyn Gora, Barbara Gribin, Karen Whitman, Suzanne Orkin, Judith Yeveck, Randi & Payton Wolf, Phyllis Boyar and Laurie McConville.▲



Jodi Cohen

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Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Program



Guest Speaker Renee Beddoug



Jewish War Veterans Post 400 members Harvey Charter and Bob Roberto



Holocaust survivors and candle lighters Peter Simenauer, Carla Benninga and Francoise Onufer



The program was held at Temple Judea

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Temple Beth Shalom Choir (photos courtesy Mike Shapiro)

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



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

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

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

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HOW THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES SERVES



Local Jewish Education and Culture

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



Overseas

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



Local Seniors Services

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



Local Case Management Services

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

Local Emergency Services

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



Local Community Services

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

Jewish Community Foundation

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



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.

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

Israel Scouts rock Fort Myers

Photos courtesy Ted Epstein

The Israel Scouts rocked the house at Temple Beth El on Monday evening, June 10. The 10 exuberant teenagers of Caravan Bashan sang and danced to Israeli and American songs, often including several of the audience members in their performance.

The Scouts spent time before and after the show with their local host families before departing for Naples on Tuesday morning.

The mission of the Israel Scouts is more than entertainment. They also strengthen relationships between Israel and North American Jewry, especially with American youth.

After their 12-week summer tour

across the Eastern and Midwest United States, the Scouts return to Israel and enter their senior year in high school. Following graduation next spring, they begin their mandatory service in the Israel Defense Forces – three years for the men, and two years for the women.

Several Scouts said they wanted long-term military careers, but most planned on traveling when they completed their military service. Enrollment in Israeli universities begins when the Scouts return home from their travels.

The Scouts' visit to Fort Myers was co-sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, Temple Beth El and Temple Judea. ▲



Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center update

By Susan Suarez, President & CEO

Exciting news from the Holocaust Museum & Janet G. and Harvey D. Cohen Education Center! We've just moved into our new home at 975 Imperial Golf Course Blvd., Naples. After 18 years of renting, we are finally owners! This move was made possible by the generous lead gift to our first Capital Campaign by philanthropist Janet G. Cohen and many other generous donors. The new building is named in honor of Janet and her late husband Harvey, early and long-term supporters of the Museum and its mission – to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to inspire action against bigotry, hatred and violence.

The new Museum's larger space will now allow us to accommodate and educate more students and visitors each year about the clear dangers of indifference in our world. Our expanded education programs will help people discover their own ability to make a difference. The new Museum is the culmination of a dream hardly dared hoped for in the early days. It has become a reality thanks to the hard work, dedication and vision of so many people – Museum founders, past and present donors and supporters, board members, volunteers and staff.

Over the years, the Museum has benefitted in so many ways from our

supporters – gifts of time, donations, bequests, monetary grants and in-kind services. Thank you to all these organizations and individuals who have helped the Museum and its education programs grow to where it is today. The first organization to help the fledgling Museum become a reality is still supporting us today. Although the Jewish Federation of Collier County has since become the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples, it hasn't changed its commitment to supporting Holocaust education in our Southwest Florida community, and we thank it for that.

Thanks also to the many teachers we have worked with over the years who found value for their students in our education programs. They have truly impacted their students' lives for the better. The Museum is honored to be a Designated Site of the Florida Department of Education Commissioner's Task Force on Education. As such, we provide teachers with the information and materials they need to educate their students about the Holocaust as mandated by the State of Florida.

As you may know, the inspiration for the Museum was the "Out of the Ashes" classroom project on the Holocaust. Created in the 1997-1998 school year by the 7th grade students of David Bell and Michelle Lee at Golden Gate Middle School, the students' goal was to make sure the memory of the Holocaust and its innocent victims wouldn't be forgotten. They hoped through the sharing of this knowledge that future students would take action to prevent

hatred and bigotry. Wouldn't they be overjoyed as adults to see how their project has blossomed? Since the Museum's founding in 2001, over 250,000 students, teachers and members of the public have now been touched by the students' wish to "teach your children to teach their children."

A big "thanks" is due to all those who physically created our new home – David Corban Architecture for its award-winning design, PBS Contractors and its partners who built out the space from demolition to completion, and Capitol Museum Services, which designed and created the exhibits. Truly a job well done on all accounts!

As of now, the enormous job of preparing and transporting the Museum's collections to the new Museum is nearly complete, and installation into the new exhibit galleries is underway. Volunteers

and staff are becoming familiarized with the new facility and its surroundings in the Imperial Plaza Shopping Plaza on U.S. 41. Enter at the traffic light at the intersection of 41 and Imperial Golf Course Blvd., and you'll find the Museum located in the center of the Plaza, with plenty of parking out front. Once exhibit installation and technology updates are completed, the new Museum will open to the public later this summer. For progress updates, visit HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org. Also, please "Save the Date" for the Grand Opening Dedication Ceremony on Sunday, November 10. Join us from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for tours, talks, children's activities and more! The event is free and open to the public.

We can't wait to have you visit. We look forward to embarking together on the next chapter in our history. ▲



■ Susan Suarez

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

Summer 2019 - New location opens!
975 Imperial Golf Course Blvd., Suite 108
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Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center

For opening date and Museum hours, visit HolocaustMuseumSWFL.org or call 239-263-9200.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new home!

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Jewish "greenhorn" status explored in a stunning series of immigrant tales

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

Greenhorns, by Richard Slotkin.
Leapfrog Press. 186 pages.
Trade Paperback \$16.95.

Though the term "greenhorn" has a cluster of related meanings, at its core, and for the purposes of Slotkin's book, "newly arrived immigrant" will do. It's a pejorative label. Greenhorns seem culturally lost in their new environments. Youngsters often adapt and assimilate with ease. Older immigrants have a difficult time, some never finding true comfort in the nation or neighborhood to which they legally belong. They never stop being greenhorns.

■ Phil Jason

The six stories in this collection, which hovers between fiction and non-fiction, explore the greenhorn experience in the context of Jewish immigration to the U.S., particularly to New York City, from the turn of the twentieth century through the early years of the Great Depression. Near the outset of this span is the important marker of 1905, as Jews escaped the latest outbursts of violent anti-Semitism in Russia and Poland, making their way to the promised land.

However, the year of entry is only one important marker. The lives of immigrants continue along their varying paths for several more decades – their

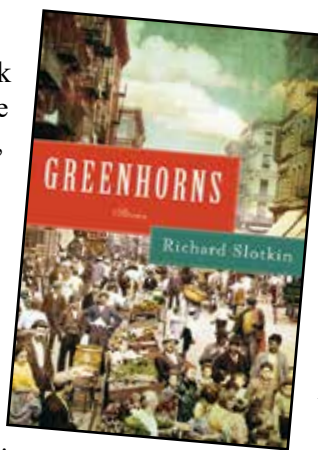
years of acculturation or lack thereof. The end of WWII is one important marker for greenhorns, bringing awareness of the Holocaust they had managed to escape. The founding of the modern Jewish state is another: a pinnacle of Jewish pride.

Slotkin tells stories of families and the generation gaps that complicate their lives. One man, back in "the other side" a prominent wheat broker, cannot reconstruct his success in his new environment. He has lost too much status, too much context for the meaning of his life. He becomes a recluse. Others find ways to fit in, grasping when possible the helping hand of a cousin already established or a friendly neighbor.

Some find life in New York just as demeaning as a life threatened by Cossacks. Many children and grandchildren make their way and gain the CUNY seal of approval.

One couple rose from doing sweatshop piecework to business prominence. Herschel's Fine Clothier became a national brand with stores in major cities. Other "off-the-boat" Jewish families find ruin.

Each story is a gem in its rendering of greenhorn conversations and sensibilities as plumbed by the dutiful narrator, a sophisticate among tribal members still finding or freshly remembering their way. The language, seasoned with Yiddish, carries the rise and fall of questions asked and not an-



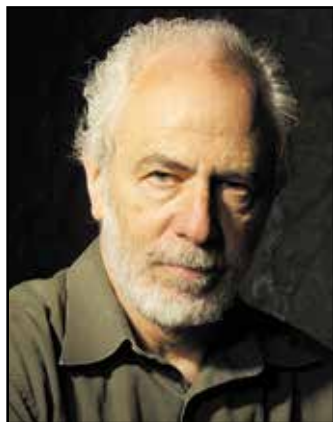
swered. "So who knew?" someone might say. Joking is important, and Slotkin gives us just enough of it, especially in "Children, Drunks and the United States of America."

The most moving story, "Uncle Max and Cousin Yossi," is a fable, drawn from life as they all are, about separated brothers, and about how much of life is up to chance, like turning the wrong way at an intersection. Can anyone can read this harrowing story

without shedding a tear? *Greenhorns* is a small monument to an epoch not to be forgotten. ▲



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



Richard Slotkin

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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.

At the Movies

Opening Tuesday, July 2 is *Spider-Man: Far From Home*. The film takes place shortly after the events in *Avengers: Endgame*. Peter Parker (AKA Spider-Man) is still mourning the death of his mentor, Avengers' leader Tony Stark, AKA Iron Man, when he is recruited by Nick Fury to team up with Quentin Beck, AKA Mysterio, a master of trickery and illusion to battle the Elementals. Tom Holland plays Spider-Man; Samuel L. Jackson plays Fury; and **JAKE GYLLENHAAL**, 38, plays Mysterio. **JON FAVREAU**, 52, appears as Happy Hogan, the former chief aide of Stark, and now a mentor of Parker.

The Art of Self-Defense opens on Friday, July 12. It got rave reviews at film festivals. Here's a long quote from the *Variety* review that encapsulates how unusually good it is: "Casey Davis [**JESSE EISENBERG**, 35] may be the least macho man you've ever met... mugged by thugs on motorbikes. Casey hardly puts up a fight.... Dark, sinister and disarmingly hilarious [the film] tells the story of how someone like Casey learns to stand up for himself by signing up for karate classes. But it's hardly that simple: Once enrolled, he starts to feel more confident in his personal life, even as he begins to realize that something bizarre is going on behind the scenes of

the dojo [school]: violent night classes for select students, weird mind games and broken bones...this singular black comedy balances off-kilter humor with an unexpectedly thriller-esque undercurrent, to the extent that audiences will find it tough to anticipate either the jokes or the dark, *Fight Club*-like turn things eventually take – all to strikingly original effect." Indie film director **DAVID ZELLNER**, 45, has a supporting role as Henry, the least aggressive student in the karate school.

Jon Favreau is the director of a new version of *The Lion King*, the 1994 Disney animated classic. Favreau had a big hit with his 2016 re-make of *The Jungle Book*. In that film, he used what's now called "live action CGI." In the new *Lion King* he uses a technique called "photorealistic computer animation." Check out the film's trailer to see if you think it's better than traditional animation. **SETH ROGEN**, 37, has a starring role as the voice of Pumbaa, a slow-witted warthog, and **BILLY EICHNER**, 40, voices Timon, a wise-cracking meerkat. The Oscar-winning score from the 1994 film, by **HANS ZIMMER**, 61, is re-used in this re-make. (Opens Friday, July 19).

Favreau is the son of a mostly Italian non-Jewish father and a Jewish mother. His mother died when he was

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.

12. His whole extended family, on both sides, cooperated in making sure he had a bar mitzvah, as his mother wished. A practicing Jew, Favreau and his wife of 19 years, physician **JOYA TILLEM**, have three children.

HBO Catch-up

The 2nd season of the hit HBO series *Big Little Lies* is about to conclude (Sunday, July 7). The powerhouse main cast includes **ZOE KRAVITZ**, 30. **ROBIN WEIGERT**, 49, returned in her recurring role as Dr. Reisman, a therapist. Weigert recently reprised playing a very different character, Calamity Jane, in HBO's *Deadwood* movie. It premiered on May 31. Despite great reviews, the *Deadwood* series was abruptly canceled in 2006. The movie ties up many hanging plot lines. Sadly, *Deadwood* creator **DAVID MILCH**, 74, is suffering from Alzheimer's. There's a great article in the May 27 issue of *The New Yorker* (also online) about how he is coping with the disease with the solid support of his wife **RITA STERN**, 63. His screenwriter daughter **OLIVIA MILCH**, 30,

helped him write the *Deadwood* movie. (By the way, the Jewish character in *Deadwood*, **SOL STARR**, really lived. Google him.)

Platt All Over the Place

Broadway star **BEN PLATT**, 25, who won the Tony in 2017 for best actor in a musical (*Dear Evan Hansen*), recently finished a limited tour in which he promoted his debut solo album, "Sing to Me." It consists of 12 original songs, all written by Platt. Many of the tunes are soulful pop ballads detailing Platt's journey as an openly gay man searching for love. Platt came out publicly this year. He came out as gay to his parents when he was 12. He told recent a concert crowd that he told his parents, on the phone, when he was in Israel and they were home in Los Angeles.

Platt is set to co-star in *The Politician*, an upcoming Netflix series. It's described as a "music-driven" satirical comedy about a wealthy politician. There's buzz that **GWYNETH PALTROW**, 46, and **BARBRA STREISAND**, 77, will appear on the show. ▲

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The wine of the stars

By The Wine Whisperer

It's the oldest riddle in the wine world. (Q) How do you make a small fortune in the wine business? (A): Start with a large one. And indeed, the perceived romance and glamour of making wine has attracted wildly successful celebrities from many areas of human endeavor. Musicians like Jon Bon Jovi and Sting. Movie stars Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie (when they were a couple), Sam Neill of *Jurassic Park* fame, and sports stars such as hockey legend Wayne Gretzky and Dan Marino. There are digital entrepreneurs who made it big, attorneys who bagged a huge settlement, baseball players, and race car drivers like Mario Andretti, Randy Lewis and Kevin Buckler, who raced his Porsche at the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Politicians, too. Nancy Pelosi owns two vineyards and sells her grapes to other winemakers. Even Donald Trump's two sons have their own Trump wine brand, which they



Jerry Greenfield

make in Virginia. In fact, there's a page on Wikipedia called "Celebrities who own wineries." Go there, and you'll scroll down forever.

Winery owner Kevin Buckler heads up The Racers Group, which is said to be the most successful independent sportscar racing team in North American history. My wife Debi and I met him at the New York Wine Experience last year and lingered at his sampling table. Then, in early January, we were invited to his private tasting in St. Petersburg, and he treated us to a whole new line of wines he developed called the "Racing Series." These red blends have names like "The Shift" and "The Redline." You get the idea.

"My wife Debra and I established the winery in 2002," says Buckler. "We have what you might call a 'driving' passion for wine and set out to make ultra-premium wines from unique blends of varieties." He's doing just that, including sourcing grapes from the Beckstoffer vineyards, perhaps the most in-demand fruit in the region. Here are some of the discoveries from his new lineup.

Adobe Road The 24 Sonoma County 2016 (\$66) – A traditional

northern Rhône blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre, richly structured with notes of black fruit and spice. Firm tannins and a persistent finish, with a dash of Malbec to add even more intensity. WW 94

Adobe Rod Shift Sonoma County 2016 (\$56) – Mostly Zinfandel, with an unconventional portion of Barbera and three other brooding red varieties. Winemaker Garrett Martin says this wine is "all about pushing the limits and breaking the rules." Explosive aromas and flavors of blueberry, some red floral notes, and even a bit of cedar and cigar. A big wine, but the 14.5% alcohol is well balanced by the fruit, tannins and acidity. WW 93

Adobe Road Redline Napa/Sonoma 2016 (\$35) – Unconventional mix of Zinfandel, Cabernet, Malbec and other bold red varieties, with blueberry and blackberry on the nose accompanied by whiffs of licorice. Deep flavors of mocha, and some definite smokiness from aging in toasted French oak. A lot of wine for the money. WW 95

Adobe Road Apex Sonoma County Red Blend 2016 (\$76) – Perhaps the most traditional of the blends, this is mostly Cabernet Sauvignon and Mer-

lot, with seductive aromas of blue and black berries, coffee, caramel and a bit of licorice. Complex and wildly aromatic. WW 94

Ask the Wine Whisperer
How do I know whether or not a wine will improve with age?
– Sharon F., Atlanta

There are many, many variables involved in answering this question. For example, the type of wine is a factor, as is the vintage quality, and storage conditions. Fact is, most wines are made to be enjoyed within a year or two of production. The big reds, like high-end Bordeaux and Burgundy, can age for decades. My advice is to buy several bottles and drink one fairly soon. If it's big and tannic, put the rest away for a few years. Better to drink it too soon than too late.▲

Jerry Greenfield is The Wine Whisperer. He is Creative Director of Greenfield Media & Marketing, and Wine Director of the international Direct Cellars wine club. His new book, Ask the Wine Whisperer, has just been published. Read his other writings at www.winewhisperer.com.

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Jerry Greenfield is The Wine Whisperer. He is Creative Director of Greenfield Media & Marketing, and Wine Director of the international Direct Cellars wine club. His new book, Ask the Wine Whisperer, has just been published. Read his other writings at www.winewhisperer.com.

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The passion of Marianne Cohn

By Paul R. Bartrop, PhD

On the night of July 7-8, 1944, 75 years ago this month, a young Jewish woman in France, Marianne Cohn, was murdered by the Gestapo. Her life was a remarkable example of selflessness in the service of life.



■ Dr. Paul Bartrop

Born on September 17, 1922, in Mannheim, Germany, she moved with her family to Berlin in 1929, and then to Spain in 1934, after the Nazi seizure of power the previous year. With the onset of the Spanish Civil War in 1936, they moved again in 1938, this time settling in France.

When World War II started, Marianne's parents, as German nationals, were detained at the Gurs internment camp in southern France. Marianne and her sister were sent to a farm.

In 1940, after the Fall of France, they were subjected to Nazi-imposed anti-Semitic laws and took refuge in a home for Jewish children in Moissac, in the so-called "Unoccupied Zone" centered on the city of Vichy.

Marianne was taken under the care of the Jewish Scouts (*Éclaireurs Israélites de France*), and in 1941 joined the Young Zionist Movement (*Mouvement de la Jeunesse Sioniste* or MJS). It was through this secret organization that she was brought into resistance activities. By 1942 she was active in producing forged passports and, later, smuggling Jewish children out of France.

Volunteers known as *passeurs*, who escorted the children to Switzerland, undertook hazardous missions under constant risk of detection by Nazis or French collaborators. This led inevitably to Marianne's arrest, though after three months' detention in a Vichy prison in Nice, she was released. It was during this period of imprisonment that, in early 1943, she wrote a poem that would become famous in resistance circles, "I Shall Betray Tomorrow" (*"Je trahirai demain"*). It has become an immortal statement of defiance in the face of the Holocaust:

*Tomorrow I shall betray, but not today
Today, pull out my fingernails,
I shall not betray.*

*You don't know the limits of my bravery.
I do.*

*You are five men with knuckledusters.
You are five men with nails in the soles
of your boots.*

*Tomorrow I shall betray, but not today.
Tomorrow.*

*I need night to come to make up my mind,
Only one night,*

*To sell out, to give up, to betray.
To sell out my friends,*

*To give up bread and wine,
To betray my life,
To die.*

*Tomorrow I shall betray, but not today.
The file is under the window pane.*

*The file isn't for the bars
The file isn't for the executioner,
The file is for my own wrists.*

*Today, I have nothing to say.
Tomorrow, I shall betray.*

At the end of the war, the poem was retrieved by one of the children Marianne had saved. It is a testimony of courage, and one of the great poems

of the resistance.

After her release, and using the false identity of Marie Colin, she undertook nearly a dozen transfers of children, taking groups of about 30 over the border on each occasion. In January 1944, she began working with a Catholic resister named Rolande Birgy, with whom she ferried further groups of up to 20 children across the border.

By the start of 1944, Marianne had taken hundreds of children to Switzerland, but on the evening of May 31, 1944, a German patrol arrested her near Annemasse, just 200 meters from the border.

She was at this time escorting a group of 28 children ranging in age from four to 15, and was held at the local Gestapo jail, the Prison de Pax. Jean Deffaugt, the mayor of Annemasse, who sympathized with the Resistance, intervened. The younger children were sent to local orphanages, while Marianne and the older children were paroled to work under guard in Annemasse during the day.

This worked for a short time, but the Resistance knew that Marianne was in extreme danger – as also was the whole escape operation. A plan was arranged to rescue her, but she refused to leave the children who were in her care.

The underground then sent a message to the Gestapo, threatening to kill its members if the detainees were harmed. After this, the Gestapo began their interrogation. On July 3, 1944, a specially selected squad was sent to Annemasse from Lyon with the assignment of removing six resistance prisoners, including Marianne. In her defiance, she now refused to hide behind her alias, and revealed her identity; for her rebelliousness, she was tortured horribly. She did not, however, speak, other than to say that she had no regrets for her actions.

On the night of July 7-8, 1944, only three weeks before the liberation of Annemasse, Marianne and the others were taken to nearby Ville-la-Grand and murdered. The Gestapo, it was said, struck them with shovels and kicked them repeatedly until they were dead.

All the children who had been imprisoned with her were saved and released as a result of the liberation in August.

The hastily buried and mutilated bodies of Marianne and the others were discovered in an open grave at La Rape, near Ville-La-Grande. Marianne's funeral took place on September 26, 1944, in Grenoble. A guard of honor mounted by soldiers of the Resistance and members of the MJS accompanied the bodies. Prayers were recited and speeches were made. After the burial, two salutes were fired, and the ceremony ended with the singing of *Hatikvah*. Some members of the MJS, together with children saved by Marianne in the Pax Prison, then conducted an all-night vigil over her grave.

Celebrated as a heroine of the resistance, Marianne Cohn was just 22 years old at the time of her death.▲

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

Ultimate Israeli summer treat – recipe by Chef Dalia

Summer is here and so are watermelons! In fact, when I think of summer, I think of two things, watermelon and Israel! Israel's long-awaited watermelon season has sprouted. In honor of this sweet occasion, I will bring you juicy facts and recipes to enhance your enjoyment of this quintessential warm-weather treat.

Technically a vegetable, watermelon was first grown in northern Africa 5,000 years ago and mentioned in the Bible as a staple of the Egyptian diet. Once you buy your watermelon you can simply slice it and enjoy a cool snack, but you can also use watermelon to add a refreshing kick to cocktails, cold soups, salads and more. There is nothing like a watermelon with a glass of soda water on the beach in the summer,

Growing up in Bat Yam, Israel, and so close to the sea made almost every summer day a beach day. Walking to the beach with family and friends was a spontaneous call, and because there was very little planning involved, we didn't take much with us. The only two important things were towels and watermelon. My childhood is filled with many sweet watermelon memories. I remember the



great feeling of taking a break on the beach after playing in the water. Sitting on the warm sand with a huge and cold piece of watermelon was one of the best parts of our day at the beach.

Four things make Israel a fast-growing tourist destination: 24/7 parties, endless sunshine, history and, of course, top cuisine. Everyone knows that falafel, hummus and shakshuka are the holy grail of Israeli cuisine, especially here in America. But do you know that watermelon and feta cheese are just as significant in Israeli summer kitchens today? No meal is complete without the ultimate weapon against the unbearable humidity: watermelon and feta cheese.

The feta most often used there is a salty Bulgarian variety common in Israel (feel free to substitute regular feta). This dish is Israel's best version of a sweet-and-savory snack – creamy, salty, sweet and juicy all at once.

Often, basil is added for flavor complexity, but I choose to add mint, fresh from my garden. The sweet mint is grown from cuttings of a variety that come to us from Israel, where mint is used in many dishes. It is no surprise, then, that Israel has a flourishing industry of herbs and spices and is one of the largest exporters of herbal products and condiments to Europe and the U.S. The Israeli cuisine makes extensive use of fresh herbs. In almost every house or balcony, even in the large cities, herbs are grown to make infusions or as spices in everyday dishes.

My husband loves watermelon salad. During the summer, one of his favorite snacks is freshly sliced, chilled watermelon with crumbly slices of feta. The saltiness of the cheese is a perfect complement to the cool sweetness of the watermelon. I introduced him to the flavor combination, and now he is hooked, too.

Here are some tips on picking the perfect watermelon:

1. The watermelon should feel heavy for its size.
2. Look for the yellow spot. This



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

is the side the watermelon laid on. The more worn and creamy yellow, the more ripe it is.

3. Tap the belly of the watermelon; it should have a nice deep hollow sound.

Watermelon Slices with lime-honey, mint syrup and feta cheese

Be sure to start this recipe at least 1.5 hours ahead so the components have time to cool. Mix up the syrup and chill it until it's cold. Cut the melons into wedges and refrigerate them. Then, just before you serve, add cheese and

then drizzle the syrup over the fruit and garnish with fresh chopped mint.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup honey mint syrup (recipe below)
- 1 (4-pound) piece watermelon, preferably seedless, cut into 24 thin wedges
- 2 tablespoons fresh mint, preferably spearmint, finely chopped
- 1.5 cups crumbled feta cheese
- ▶ Make the honey mint syrup.
- ▶ Remove from heat and refrigerate until cool, about 1.5 hours. Remove mint.
- ▶ Slice watermelon into wedges and place on a large cutting board or serving platter.
- ▶ Pour the crumbled feta on top of the watermelon and drizzle with mint-infused syrup.
- ▶ Garnish watermelon with fresh mint leaves.

Mint syrup

Ingredients:

- 1 cup fresh mint, chopped
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup honey
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice (from 1.5 limes)
- 2 teaspoons finely grated lime zest (from 1.5 limes)
- ▶ Put the honey and water in a small pot.
- ▶ Bring it to a boil over high heat, whisking occasionally. Remove the pot from the heat.
- ▶ Pour the honey syrup over the chopped mint.
- ▶ Give it a stir to make sure all the mint is submerged.
- ▶ Cover it with plastic wrap. Let it steep like this on the counter until it cools to room temperature.
- ▶ When the syrup has cooled completely, strain it, pressing the mint with the back of a spoon to squeeze out as much syrup as you can. Discard the mint; it's done its job.
- ▶ Add lime juice and lime zest, stir well.
- ▶ Store it covered, in the fridge.▲

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FIDF supporters travel to Poland and Israel with Holocaust survivors and Israeli military officers

NEW YORK, May 10 – More than 40 Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) supporters from across the country, with Holocaust survivors and alongside 45 soldiers and officers representing all branches of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), concluded today the FIDF Mission to Poland and Israel.

Joining the delegation was Holocaust survivor Sophie Tajch Klisman, 89, of Detroit. Klisman, along with her sister Felicia, survived the Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen and Salzwedel concentration camps. The youngest of four children, she was only 10 years old when Nazi Germany occupied her hometown of Lodz, forcing the family into the Lodz ghetto of 68,000 Jews. Both sisters were liberated from Salzwedel in April 1945, and immigrated to the U.S. in 1949, settling in the Detroit area. The rest of their family perished.

“If I look at the rest of the family, they were already adults and grown-ups and here was this child; that was just a miracle that I survived; it was meant for me to survive,” Klisman said. “I just hope in conclusion, that nobody, nobody should have to live through such terrors, such horrible conditions at such a young age, or at any age. It was

a horrible experience, but I’m glad that I finally was able to tell it.”

Also joining the mission was Holocaust survivor Gizella “Gita” Mann, 89, of Israel. Mann’s community in Hungary was forced into a ghetto and later brought to Auschwitz, where she and her sister were separated from their family. Gita was later separated from her sister and sent to Germany, where she worked for most of the war. After narrowly escaping death, she was taken



The FIDF “From Holocaust to Independence” mission in front of the Israeli Air Force (IAF) airplane on which the delegation flew from Poland to Israel (Photo Credits: Shahar Azran)

to Sweden and stayed there until 1946. She returned to Hungary after the war and reunited with her sister and three brothers. In 1948, she moved with her then-fiancé to Israel, where she stayed until emigrating to the U.S. in 1964, and finally returning to Israel five years ago. Mann has two children who live in

New Jersey, and she currently lives in Jerusalem.

Led by FIDF National President Bobby Cohen and FIDF National Director and CEO Maj. Gen. (Res.) Meir Klifi-Amir, the nine-day “From Holocaust to Independence” mission spanned Jewish history, from its darkest moments to its most triumphant. Israeli soldiers and Holocaust survivors accompanied the FIDF supporters on a trip across Poland, starting in Krakow,

Holocaust and those who risk their lives to defend the Jewish homeland,” said Klifi-Amir. “We’ve celebrated our story of heroism – from near annihilation, to the triumph of establishing the State of Israel. When we marched tall and proud through the gates of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camps, together with Holocaust survivors, FIDF supporters and 45 Israeli officers in uniform, gratefully flying the Israeli flag, we sent a clear message: that we are here, we will never forget, and we will do whatever we must do to protect our country and our people to guarantee – Never Again.”

“This mission serves as one of the last opportunities for survivors to return to Auschwitz and share its dreadful stories,” said Cohen. “We entered the gates of hell, where countless Jews suffered and perished at the hands of the Nazis. We will ensure the stories of survivors live on, safeguarded by those brave soldiers who defend and protect the State of Israel, and Jewish people around the world.”

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. ▲

Florida governor plants roots in Israel

In the ancient hills of Jerusalem, a tree planting ceremony commemorates Governor DeSantis’ official visit to Israel, his first since taking office.

On May 29, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis took part in a tree planting ceremony hosted by Keren Kayemet L’Israel-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) and Jewish National Fund-USA (JNF-USA) at Yad Kennedy Memorial in Aminadav Forest in the Jerusalem area. The ceremony was part of the Governor’s Trade Mission in Israel, which included a delegation of nearly 100 participants representing Florida’s largest governmental organizations, companies and community professionals.

The State of Florida has held long-time ties to the State of Israel, and Governor DeSantis demonstrated on his trip to Israel that the connection has never been stronger.

The tradition of planting trees in Israel is a timeless spiritual and national symbol in a nation that has long revered the connection to the land and the planting of some 250 million trees, a reminder of the growth and vibrancy of this young country, which earlier this month celebrated its 71st year of independence.

During the ceremony, Governor DeSantis said, “May the tree we plant today grow as tall and as strong as the friendship between Israelis and Floridians. Those who preceded me in this

special tree planting ceremony foresaw a strong and vibrant Israel, and that is no different today.”

KKL-JNF Vice Chairman Yair Lotstein addressed the meaningful event and said, “Governor, you are about to plant a tree here in the Kennedy Peace Forest. This tree will grow and thrive in these Jerusalem foothills. A green, growing reminder of the deep-rooted connection between you and the State of Israel. Between you and the people of Israel.”

JNF-USA President Dr. Sol Lizerbram said, “Jewish National Fund-USA represents some one-million donors in the United States, including hundreds of thousands of supporters in the State of Florida. We are very proud of that strong connection to the land and people of Israel, and are so pleased to welcome Governor DeSantis and his delegation to this ceremony, one we will always cherish.”

JNF-USA and KKL-JNF have established themselves as the conduit between the Florida community and the State of Israel, providing educational partnerships, community programs and an international partner in the promotion of technologies and resources that have become synonymous with Israel, KKL-JNF and JNF-USA. ▲

once home to more than 60,000 Jews, and tracing the community’s steps from the city’s ghetto to the Buczyrna forest, where the Nazis executed more than 800 children. The group then traveled to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camps.

The entire delegation later flew to Israel on an Israeli Air Force (IAF) airplane, after the IDF Chief of the General Staff granted the FIDF delegation exclusive access to land at an IAF base. The group visited several IDF bases and met soldiers serving on Israel’s front lines, commemorated Yom HaZikaron – Israel’s Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and victims of terror – and celebrated Israel’s 71st Independence Day. Earlier today, the delegation met with Israel’s president, Reuven Rivlin.

“This historic mission surveyed Jewish modern history through the eyes of those who survived the horrors of the



The FIDF “From Holocaust to Independence” mission meets with Israel’s President Reuven Rivlin



Executive Director of KKL-JNF Global Resource Development Ronnie Vinnikov; United Israel Appeal Chairman Sam Grundwerg; KKL-JNF Vice Chairman Yair Lotstein; Florida Governor Ron DeSantis; Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody (photo courtesy Avi Hayun, KKL-JNF Public Diplomacy Div.)



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BRIEFS

**ISRAEL'S ECONOMY
BOOMS AT FASTEST PACE
SINCE 2016**

Israel's economy expanded at its fastest pace in three years as its gross domestic product rose 5.2% in the 1st quarter of 2019, the Central Bureau of Statistics said Thursday, May 16.

This is a jump from a 3.9% gain in the 4th quarter of 2018. (Ivan Levings-ton, Bloomberg)

**ISRAELIS AID
VENEZUELAN REFUGEES
IN COLOMBIA**

Israeli humanitarian aid agency IsraAID has dispatched an emergency response team to Cucuta, on Colombia's border with Venezuela, where around 5,000 Venezuelans cross every day seeking relief from the continued economic and political crisis in the country.

IsraAID's response plan will include child-protection and back-to-school activities, community resilience-building and psychological support, hygiene and sanitation promotion, and relief distribution.

IsraAID currently has active recovery teams across the region, supporting communities affected by the 2018 El Fuego Volcano eruption in Guatemala, the 2017 earthquakes in Mexico, and Hurricane Maria in Dominica and Puerto Rico.

IsraAID's emergency response in Colombia is supported by AJC and additional generous donors. (Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel21c)

**ISRAELI ARAB WOMEN
JOINING LABOR FORCE
IN LARGE NUMBERS**

A decade ago, only 22% of Israeli Arab women were working outside the home. Today over 40% are part of the labor force.

"The major reason is the increase in the educational level of Arab women and internal changes within Arab society," says Aiman Saif, director of the Authority for the Economic Development of the Minorities Sector.

Arab citizens comprise 17% of the university students in Israel, close to their 20% share of the population. Of these students, 70% are women.

A recent study found that 90% of employees in a workplace shared by Arabs and Jews said they had a good relationship with their counterparts. (Linda Gradstein, *Jerusalem Post*)

**NO ARAB DEMOGRAPHIC
TIME BOMB**

Contrary to conventional wisdom, the Jewish state is not facing an Arab demographic time bomb.

In 2018 there were 1.85 million Arabs in the West Bank (not 3 million as claimed by the Palestinians), 1.6 million Israeli Muslim Arabs, 130,000 Israeli Druze, 130,000 Israeli Christian Arabs and seven million Jews – a 65.5% Jewish majority in the combined area of pre-1967 Israel and the West Bank.

By 2017 the Jewish fertility rate had risen to 3.16 births per woman, exceeding the Arab fertility rate in the West Bank of 3 births per woman.

Recent years have seen an annual net Jewish immigration of 25,000-30,000, while net Arab emigration from the West Bank has been 20,000 annually. (Amb. Yoram Ettinger, *Jewish Political Studies Review*)

**WHAT ISRAEL HAS
MANAGED TO DO
IN RECENT YEARS**

Where were we a little over 70 years ago, and where are we now? From a scattered, lowly people that was trampled by anyone who passed by and a third of whom went up as smoke in the crematoria, we rose from the ashes and bloomed into a strong, proud nation that is being courted by many countries.

Thirty years ago in 1988, 4.44 million people were living in Israel, compared to 8.96 million last year. Thirty years ago, the gross domestic product stood at \$44 billion. Now it is more than 700% higher, standing at over \$355 billion. The per capita GDP has increased from \$10,000 thirty years ago to over \$38,000 last year. Israel's foreign currency reserves were \$4 billion thirty years ago, and now they total \$115 billion. In 1988, annual inflation stood at 16%, compared to only 1% in 2018.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the Israeli economy has grown by 90%, more than double the average growth among OECD nations. Exports grew from \$10 billion in 1988 to \$107 billion in 2018. The discovery of offshore natural gas reserves provides the resources for the production of 73% of the country's electricity.

Israel is ranked third in the world (after Japan and Canada) in the number of college-educated citizens per capita. R&D comprises a bigger percent of Israel's GDP than any other country in the world. (Dror Eydar, Israel's next ambassador to Italy, *Israel Hayom*)

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oped Iron Dome jointly with IAI. "The number of deaths would have been hundreds of times higher if the Iron Dome had not existed." (Amir Rapaport, *IsraelDefense*)

**NATO AND ISRAEL
DEEPEN TIES**

Israel is fast becoming NATO's premier partner country. NATO can tap into over seven decades of counterterrorism experience, learn from a cyber powerhouse, and deepen intelligence ties with a tested and vibrant democracy perched on the shores of the Levantine powder keg. Living at close quarters with radical Islamist terrorists is business as usual for Israel.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) can share invaluable experience in asymmetric warfare against terrorist armies that use its own population as human shields, and can give crucial advice to NATO commanders as they face similar challenges. Israel has pioneered advanced techniques to help protect civilians in residential combat zones.

On countless occasions, Israel has fed NATO allies life-saving intelligence. Just last year, Israel prevented a blood bath at a political rally in Paris plotted by diplomats of the Iranian regime. Israeli warnings also foiled an ISIS attack at a soccer match between NATO ally Albania and Israel in 2016. (Michael Sieveking, deputy director of the American Jewish Committee Transatlantic Institute in Brussels, *New Europe - Belgium*)

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**Wonder
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**Girls get a
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role model.**



Widely praised by critics, Israeli actress Gal Gadot is giving girls all over the world a positive new role model, with her portrayal of Wonder Woman in the Warner Brothers movie *Batman v. Superman*. This model-actress-mom who served in the Israeli army, and started on a law career before turning to Hollywood, creates a superhero that is all about compassion, love, truth, justice and equality. And she's pretty tough, too.

ISRAEL21c

**For daily news stories related
to Israel & the Jewish world,
visit the Federation's website
at JewishFederationLCC.org.**

continued on next page

BRIEFS

continued from previous page

for medical treatment, IDF paramedics attached the bar code to the wounded, who were able to transfer all relevant medical information to doctors at Nahariya's Galilee Medical Center. The doctors were able to plan ahead to receive the patients an hour and a half before they arrived.

Autonomous aerial vehicles are being studied as an option to evacuate wounded soldiers during war. One unmanned aerial system (UAS) the IDF has been working on for several years is the Cormorant – a compact, unmanned, single-engine, VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) aircraft. (Anna Ahronheim, *Jerusalem Post*)

WHY AGRITECH IS ISRAEL'S NEXT BIG IMPORT

The train ride from Jaffa to Jerusalem passes through fields of grapes, lettuce, tomatoes, olives and bananas. In many ways, these fields are a miracle. As the Dead Sea evaporates and the Jordan River dwindles, Israel has been forced to get creative around water efficiency. More than half of Israel's usable water is man-made from desalinated seawater, and 86% of its wastewater is treated and reused.

Israel has survived as a modern nation because the country created a revolutionary irrigation system in the 1960s that would become the world standard for efficient and high-tech agriculture. Necessity is the mother of invention, and the concept of "drip" irrigation exemplifies that maxim.

Israel's agritech sector now comprises 500 companies, many of them new, which have raised over \$170 million in funding since 2017 – more than competitors in far larger farming nations like Brazil and Australia. Agriculture and food tech startups received over \$10 billion in investments last year globally, up 29% from 2016, and a significant proportion is going to Israel.

This month, Taranis – a four-year-old Tel Aviv startup whose drones monitor fields and diagnose nutrient problems, plant disease and insect infestations in farms in the U.S., Brazil, Russia and Australia – closed a \$20 million investment round.

In January, Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd. signed an agreement to supply drones to Brazil's Santos Lab as a way to improve large-scale precision agriculture. The first foray into the agriculture market for the Israeli company is estimated to be a more than \$100 million deal. Last October, China's vice president Wang Qishan toured Israeli agri-parks, which have been popping up across China, as well as Ethiopia, India, Greece and Panama after similar state visits. In late 2017, China signed a \$300 million "clean tech" deal to import and white-label Israeli agricultural tech. (Adam Popescu, *OneZero*)

WEST POINT GRADUATES 1,000TH JEWISH STUDENT

When West Point graduated its 1,000th Jewish cadet on Saturday, May 25, it was more than a historical moment. For the 12 Jewish cadets graduating this year out of a class of 980, and the hundreds of Jewish alumni before them, this milestone shows how much Jewish life has grown here since the military academy's 1802 founding. (Cathryn J. Prince, *Times of Israel*)

HOW ISRAEL IS HELPING TO FEED THE WORLD

Since the 1950s, Israelis have not only been finding miraculous ways to turn their own desert green but have also shared their discoveries far and wide.

Israeli drip-irrigation solutions are used worldwide.

Since 1/3 of the food produced globally is lost or wasted each year, Israeli-designed GrainPro Cocoons – huge bags that keep both water and air out – are used today in 100 countries.

Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu-owned Bio-Bee breeds and exports several species of beneficial insects and mites for biological pest control, and bumblebees for natural pollination, to more than 50 nations. The company's top seller is the tiny BioPersimilis, a highly efficient enemy of the spider mite, a devastating agricultural pest.

BioPersimilis is used by most of California's strawberry farmers and by growers of peppers, tomatoes, potatoes, beans, corn, cucumber, melon, eggplant and ornamental flowers in order to reduce the amount of pesticides they use by up to 80%. (Abigail Klein Leichman, *Israel21c*)

ISRAEL'S 'UBER FOR FIRST RESPONDERS' GOES GLOBAL

United Hatzalah (Hatzalah means Rescue in Hebrew), with its all-volunteer network of trained emergency first responders, has become a regular feature in Israel. It's now going global.

United Hatzalah's model is predicated on two facts. First, when it comes to emergency response, every second counts. An ambulance crew that's too far away, gets stuck in traffic, misses a turn, or waits on a slow elevator can often mean the difference between life and death. Second, when someone has an emergency, there are almost always people nearer to the scene than the dispatched ambulance.

Average ambulance response times in Israel and the U.S. often exceed 10 minutes, depending on population density. Hatzalah's volunteer medics average less than three minutes. In large cities, their average response time is 90 seconds. So, how do they do it?

United Hatzalah has trained volunteer medics throughout Israel who complete 180 hours of classroom instruction and 100 hours of field training before being certified.

There are now over 5,000 volunteers – secular and religious Jews, Muslims, Druze and Christians, men and women, old and young, from every socioeconomic background – who all work together to save the lives of their neighbors in need. Over 3,000,000 people have been treated to date.

The centralized dispatch center tracks the location of volunteers, including what equipment and training they have, via an app on volunteers' phones. When a call comes in, the closest medics are immediately located and dispatched via the app. To deal with congested urban areas, Eli Beer invented the ambucycle – a medically equipped motorcycle that can race through traffic. There are now over 800 ambucycles deployed in Israeli cities.

In the U.S., a four-year-old program in Jersey City has 200 volunteers, and another branch is launching in Englewood, New Jersey. New York City could be on the horizon. Brandon Fuller, deputy director at the NYU Marron Institute of Urban Management, observes, "If United Rescue can do for New York what it has done on a smaller scale for Jersey City, it will save lives and promote the volunteerism that can strengthen communities across the city." (Yaron Carni, *Forbes*)

ISRAEL'S HIGH-TECH FACELIFT TAKES THE STING OUT OF CHECKPOINTS

At the Qalandia military checkpoint north of Jerusalem in the West Bank, people step calmly up to the electronic barrier and allow their ID cards to hover for a second over a green laser before an automatic gate pops open like at an advanced airport terminal. After a multimillion-dollar renovation, Pal-

SHIPPING TO ISRAEL?
שולח מטעניך לישראל?

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estinians breeze through, encountering the Israeli military only if they had not yet received a biometric identification card. Even during busy times, it takes less than five minutes to cross.

Qalandia checkpoint was established 18 years ago during the second intifada, when Palestinian suicide bombers were sent to blow up buses and restaurants inside Israel. Shaul Shay, an Israeli military historian, said that maintaining checkpoints but upgrading them was the best way to maintain "coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians.... Unfortunately, as long as Palestinian terror continues, Israel cannot take any risks. This system is unavoidable." (Ruth Eglash, *Washington Post*)

CANDY GIANT MARS TO BUILD FOOD TECH RESEARCH HUB IN ISRAEL

Mars, the \$35 billion maker of M&Ms and Snickers, is teaming up with Jerusalem Venture Partners to create a research and development center in Israel dedicated to commercializing tech solutions in the food industry. (Chloe Sorvino, *Forbes*)

TECHNION STUDENTS HAVE CREATED OVER 2,000 COMPANIES

Entrepreneurship fever has made the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Israel's oldest university founded in 1912 in Haifa, one of the main fuses for the country's roaring tech sector.

"Many of our graduates are running the economy," said university president Peretz Lavie, who is stepping down in October after 12 years.

Technion students have created over 2,000 companies. The record for a single student is 21.

In a country known as start-up nation, failure isn't the end, Lavie says. "Israelis don't stop asking questions."

"In some countries if you fail, that's the end of it. I know people here who succeeded on their 10th attempt."

"In Japan, there is the same level of ambition as here, but it's the failures that they cannot tolerate. In Brazil, if you have a failed start-up, you can't apply for more grants." (Eanna Kelly, *Science Business* - Belgium)

HOLLYWOOD IDOL AUDREY HEPBURN HELPED SAVE DUTCH JEWS DURING THE HOLOCAUST

A new book, *Dutch Girl: Audrey Hepburn and World War II*, by veteran star chronicler Robert Matzen, describes Hepburn's life in the city of Arnhem and nearby Velp during the war where she displayed heroism on behalf of individuals in danger. In 1942, the Nazis executed her uncle, Otto Ernst Gelder, Count van Limburg Stirum.

Audrey, known at the time as Adriantje, refused an order to join a Nazi artists' committee, ending her burgeoning dance career, which had made her Arnhem's most famous ballerina by 1944. Hepburn also assisted Dr. Hendrik Visser 't Hooft, who helped shelter hundreds of Jews in Velp throughout the war. She was one of the people bringing messages to families protecting Jews. She also danced to raise money for the resistance and to feed Jews in hiding. Her family members risked their lives sheltering a British soldier, and she and her mother assisted as nurses. At one point, the Nazis rounded up Dutch women and girls to work in German kitchens, including Hepburn, but she escaped. (Rich Tenorio, *Times of Israel*) ▲

What do you think?
Need to reach the editor of L'CHAYIM? Send an email to LChayim36@gmail.com.

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The newest epidemic to sweep America...hunger!

By Michael Golding

In a country that wastes billions of pounds of food each year, it's almost shocking that anyone in America goes hungry. Yet every day, millions of children and adults do not get the meals they need to thrive. When people face hunger, they often struggle to meet other basic needs as well, such as housing, employment and health-care.

According to Feeding America, the National Association of Food Banks, one in three low-income American families struggles to afford basic non-food household goods, including products related to personal care, household care and baby care. As a result,

they make trade-offs with other living expenses and employ coping strategies to secure essential household goods. Forty million Americans struggle with hunger, including more than 12 million children. They are, in the new vernacular, "food insecure," meaning they are often forced to skip meals, eat less at meals, buy cheap and non-nutritious food.

But right here in Southwest Florida the numbers are worse, according to the local Harry Chapin Food Bank, which works with the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties' Food Pantry. Studies show children in Southwest Florida are more likely

to face hunger than children nationwide. Child food insecurity rates in the five counties of Southwest Florida are higher than overall child food insecurity rates across the country, according to the Map the Meal Gap 2019 report released by Feeding America. In our communities, 20.4 percent of children are food insecure compared to 17 percent of children nationwide. A hungry child will become an uneducated one!

Obviously, there are those who "work the system" and could find employment and support themselves, but they are in the minority. The saddest thing of all is the fact that Americans waste an unfathomable amount of

food. In fact, according to a recent report, roughly 50 percent of all produce in the United States is thrown away – some 60 million tons (or \$160 billion) worth of produce annually.

Even with that, the Harry Chapin Food Bank distributes hundreds of thousands of pounds of food each month to 150-plus partner agencies serving our neighbors in need. The Jewish Federation is one of them.

I urge readers of L'CHAYIM to practice *tzedakah* – charitable giving that is typically seen as a moral obligation – and support the Jewish Federation's Food Pantry. ▲

Michael Golding lives in Fort Myers.

Burying Herman Wouk and burying his Zionism

By Moshe Phillips

Herman Wouk, the famed novelist who first became a household name for his 1951 Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Caine Mutiny*, died on May 17, nearly 70 years after achieving fame. Besides his long career as a writer, he was also a lifelong Zionist.

This fact of Wouk's love affair with the State of Israel has been completely absent from the many articles celebrating his literary career and marking his passing, less than two weeks before what would have been his 104th birthday.

In this small space, I will attempt to rectify that.

Again and again – from his 1959 first non-fiction work, *This is My God: The Jewish Way of Life*, through his pair of books about modern Israel, *The Hope* (1993) and *The Glory* (1994), until his second nonfiction book, published in 2000, *The Will to Live On: This is Our Heritage* – Wouk focused much of his literary abilities on Israel.

Perhaps no line in any of his books demonstrates his love of Israel more than this one from *This is My God*: "The first time I saw the lights of the (Israeli) airport in the dusk from the descending plane, I experienced a sense of awe that I do not expect to know again in this life."

Wouk, an Orthodox Jew, synthesized his love of Torah with his love of the reborn Jewish state.

And his view of Zionism is also clearly laid out in *This is My God*: "Zionism is a single long action of lifesaving, of snatching great masses of people

out of the path of sure extinction."

Forty years later in *The Will to Live On*, Wouk, as he interwove Jewish history and shared stories of his personal interaction with David Ben-Gurion, Yitzhak Rabin and other leading Israeli generals and politicians, showed that his love of Israel was clearly undiminished. "The resurgence of Jewry in the Holy Land is nothing but phenomenal," he wrote.

Wouk had been a U.S. Naval officer during World War II, and his love of the Israeli military and respect for its accomplishments was a large part of his Israel novels, *The Hope* and *The Glory*.

Those two books can be juxtaposed with his pair of famous World War II novels, *The Winds of War* (1971) and *War and Remembrance* (1978). In his Israel novels, the heroine Natalie Jastrow undergoes a long and tortured journey from American Jewish girl to Holocaust victim to Zionist.

Herman Wouk penned the introduction to the 1980 English version of *Self-Portrait of a Hero: The Letters of Jonathan Netanyahu*. Yoni's brothers, Benjamin and Iddo Netanyahu, put together the book. "My parents like his were Zionists," writes Wouk. Later in the introduction he explains his connection to Israel. "Like most American Jews we believe in Israel and support it, buy Israel Bonds, make frequent trips there; I give speeches for Israeli causes and so forth," and then relates how the book

allowed him to better understand his own son's desire to make his home in the modern Jewish state.

The Washington Post, *The New York Times*, *The Jerusalem Post* as well as wire services and other newspapers all managed to leave Zionism out of their summations of Wouk's life. Whether deliberate or not, this missing piece of his life surely matters as one simply cannot understand Wouk without realizing the central place Zionism occupied in his life, no less than his love of Torah and his deep faith.

Wouk's passion for the well-being of his fellow Jews and for Israel should serve as a reminder to American Jews of how the Greatest Generation also bore witness to the horrors of the Holocaust and the rebirth of Israel. Those who reflected on what they saw were forever changed. Wouk loved Israel and America, and we should emulate

that attachment to the Land of the Free as well as to the reborn Jewish state.

Postscript: *Self-Portrait of a Hero* is a must read. It contains Yoni Netanyahu's letters to family and friends from 1963 when he first entered high school in the Philadelphia suburbs to just days before the rescue of hostages at Entebbe. His intellect, patriotism, compassion, dedication to duty and leadership are all on full display, amplifying the loss of someone who had just turned 30. The book had a profound effect on Wouk. If you have not read it, do yourself a favor and read it, and you too will be forever changed by it. ▲

Moshe Phillips is national director of Herut North America's U.S. division. Herut is an international movement for Zionist pride and education and is dedicated to the ideals of pre-World War II Zionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky. Herut's website is <https://herutna.org/>.

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Why history still matters: The 1967 Six-Day War

By David Harris, CEO of American Jewish Committee (AJC), June 4, 2019

Mention history and it can trigger a roll of the eyes.

Add the Middle East to the equation and folks might start running for the hills, unwilling to get caught up in the seemingly bottomless pit of details and disputes.

But without an understanding of what happened in the past, it's impossible to grasp where we are today – and where we are has profound relevance for the region and the world.

Fifty-two years ago this week, the Six-Day War broke out.

While some wars fade into obscurity, this one remains as relevant today as in 1967. Many of its core issues remain unresolved.

Politicians, diplomats and journalists continue to grapple with the consequences of that war, but rarely consider, or perhaps are even unaware of, context. Yet without context, some critically important things may not make sense.

First, in June 1967, there was no state of Palestine. It didn't exist and never had. Its creation, proposed by the UN in 1947, was rejected by the Arab world because it also meant the establishment of a Jewish state alongside.

Second, the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem were in Jordanian hands. Violating solemn agreements, Jordan denied Jews access to their holiest places in eastern Jerusalem. To make matters still worse, they desecrated and destroyed many of those sites.

Meanwhile, the Gaza Strip was under Egyptian control, with harsh military rule imposed on local residents.

And the Golan Heights, which were regularly used to shell Israeli communities far below, belonged to Syria.

Third, the Arab world could have created a Palestinian state in the West Bank, eastern Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip any day of the week. They didn't. There wasn't even discussion about it. And Arab leaders, who today profess such attachment to eastern Jerusalem, rarely, if ever, visited. It was viewed as an Arab backwater.

Fourth, the 1967 boundary at the time of the war, so much in the news these days, was nothing more than an armistice line dating back to 1949 – familiarly known as the Green Line. That's after five Arab armies attacked Israel in 1948 with the aim of destroying the embryonic Jewish state. They failed. Armistice lines were drawn, but they weren't formal borders. They couldn't be. The Arab world, even in defeat, refused to recognize Israel's very right to exist.

Fifth, the PLO, which supported the war effort, was established in 1964, three years before the conflict erupted.

That's important because it was created with the goal of obliterating Israel. Remember that in 1964 the only "settlements" were Israel itself.

Sixth, in the weeks leading up to the Six-Day War, Egyptian and Syrian leaders repeatedly declared that war was coming and their objective was to wipe Israel off the map. There was no ambiguity in their blood-curdling announcements. Twenty-two years after the Holocaust, another enemy spoke about the extermination of Jews. The record is well-documented.

The record is equally clear that Israel, in the days leading up to the war, passed word to Jordan, via the UN and United States, urging Amman to stay out of any pending conflict. Jordan's King Hussein ignored the Israeli plea and tied his fate to Egypt and Syria. His forces were defeated by Israel, and he lost control of the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem. He later acknowledged that he had made a terrible error in entering the war.

Seventh, Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser demanded that UN peacekeeping forces in the area, in place for the previous decade to prevent conflict, be removed. Shamefully, without even the courtesy of consulting Israel, the UN complied. That left no buffer between Arab armies being mobilized and deployed, and Israeli forces in a country one-fiftieth, or two percent, the size of Egypt – and just nine miles wide at its narrowest point.

Eighth, Egypt blocked Israeli shipping lanes in the Red Sea, Israel's only maritime access to trading routes with Asia and Africa. This step was understandably regarded as an act of war by Jerusalem. The United States spoke about joining with other countries to break the blockade, but, in the end, regrettably, did not act.

Ninth, France, which had been Israel's principal arms supplier, announced a ban on the sale of weapons on the eve of the June war. That left Israel in potentially grave danger if a war were to drag on and require the resupply of arms. It was not until the next year that the U.S. stepped into the breach and sold vital weapons systems to Israel.

And finally, after winning the war of self-defense, Israel hoped that its newly-acquired territories, seized from Egypt, Jordan and Syria, would be the basis for a land-for-peace accord. Feelers were sent out. The formal response came on September 1, 1967, when the Arab Summit Conference famously declared in Khartoum, "No peace, no recognition, no negotiations" with Israel.

More "no's" were to follow. Underscoring the point, in 2003, the Saudi

Ambassador to the U.S. was quoted in *The New Yorker* as saying, "It broke my heart that Arafat did not take the offer (of a two-state deal presented by Israel, with American support, in 2001). Since 1948, every time we've had something on the table, we say no. Then we say yes. When we say yes, it's not on the table anymore. Then we have to deal with something less. Isn't it about time to say yes?"

Today, there are those who wish to rewrite history.

They want the world to believe there was once a Palestinian state. There was not.

They want the world to believe there were fixed borders between that state and Israel. There was only an armistice line between Israel and the Jordanian-controlled West Bank and eastern Jerusalem.

They want the world to believe the 1967 war was a bellicose act by Israel. It was an act of self-defense in the face of blood-curdling threats to vanquish the Jewish state, not to mention the maritime blockade of the Straits of Tiran, the abrupt withdrawal of UN peacekeeping forces, and the redeployment of Egyptian and Syrian troops. All wars have consequences. This one was no exception. But the aggressors have failed to take responsibility for the actions they instigated.

They want the world to believe

post-1967 Israeli settlement-building is the key obstacle to peacemaking. The Six-Day War is proof positive that the core issue is, and always has been, whether the Palestinians and larger Arab world accept the Jewish people's right to a state of their own. If so, all other contentious issues, however difficult, have possible solutions. But, alas, if not, all bets are off.

And they want the world to believe the Arab world had nothing against Jews per se, only Israel, yet trampled with abandon on sites of sacred meaning to the Jewish people.

In other words, when it comes to the Arab-Israeli conflict, dismissing the past as if it were a minor irritant at best, irrelevant at worst, won't work.

Can history move forward? Absolutely. Israel's peace treaties with Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994 powerfully prove the point. At the same time, though, the lessons of the Six-Day War illustrate just how tough and tortuous the path can be – and are sobering reminders that, yes, history does matter. ▲

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



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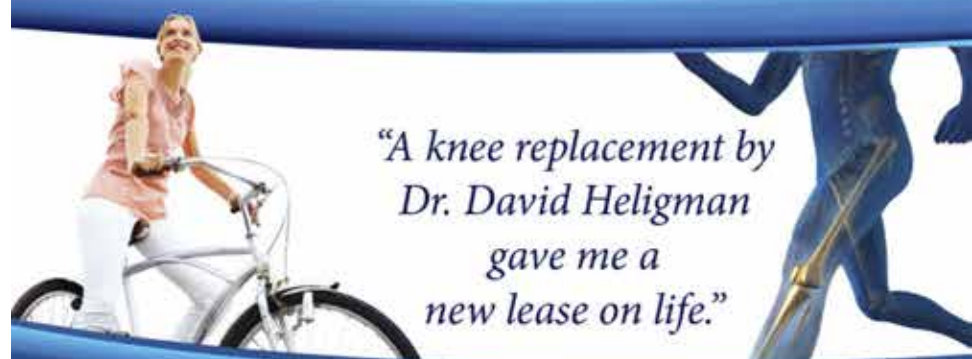
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Connecting the dots

Please know that I am writing this column today...for me. I hope that some of you reading it will receive some benefit as well. The near-chaos of our day has seemingly reached a level that many of us are unfamiliar with. What am I speaking of? Chaos...Politics...War...Tariffs...Congressional Investigations...Global Warming and acts of "extreme weather"... Anti-Semitism... Politics...and so forth. With all of these stressors, it would not be surprising for anyone to over-react, over-medicate or hide in the closet. Of course, with the ubiquity of cell phones, even your closet may not be safe.

So what can we do about all of these issues, as individuals and as members of our tribe? I'm glad you're asking that question. In our long history, we have gone through many topsy-turvy times. I assure you this is not the first and it will not be the last. In his book, *The Empty Chair: Finding Hope and Joy*, Reb Nachman of Bratzlav (also spelled Breslov) gives us some wonderful advice.

His first statement is that: "Peace heals. When your own world is fractured, increase your knowledge of G-d. It will spawn inner peace." And he balances that with: "When the outside world is fractured, promote the search for truth. It will spawn universal peace."

Both of these statements seem to be wise. In our rational, scientific

world view, it is sometimes hard to see the virtues of studying Torah. But just being in the presence of our sacred writings has a beneficial aspect. And no matter what your politics may be, there is obviously a breakdown in speaking the truth lately. So commit to doing these things: study Torah for an hour every day. And resolve to check yourself whenever you hear a lie coming out of your mouth. And if you can do both of these things, that is even better.

He also suggested: "Never miss an opportunity to study the Word of G-d. It settles the mind and calms the heart. G-d's Word is the source of all true life. Know and understand it. The Word can heal your soul and unite it with its source."

These words are not just metaphors, but part of our human reality. When issues accost us from all sides, we need to deepen our connection to our source, our center. That is why we have the rabbinic midrash that in the center of the world is Israel. And in the center of Israel is Jerusalem. And in the center of Jerusalem is the Temple Mount. And in the center of the Temple Mount is the Holy of Holies. It all goes together and it is all connected.

Most of all, Reb Nachman constantly adjured his Hasidim to: "Never despair! Never! It is forbidden to give up hope." I pray that hope and faith and trust will grow within each of us, until we meet again.▲

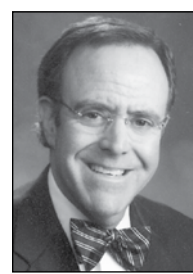
Rabbi Dr. Michael J. Schorin, MAPC, BCC is a Chaplain in Lee Health's Department of Spiritual Services, and ministers at the Gulf Coast Medical Center.



■ Rabbi Michael J. Schorin

A vibrancy and a goodness in Israel

The Hula Valley in northeastern Israel is a way station for birds migrating between Europe and Africa. My wife and I were there, together with a Temple Judea trip, the



■ Rabbi Marc Sack

second week of May, hoping to see a wide variety of birds. The preserve was virtually empty! The birds had all continued on their journey back to Europe for the summer. We did see a lot of cranes, however – the kind that are used in constructing high-rise buildings. Israel was exploding with construction – office buildings, hotels and apartments. This was especially the case in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. And the country was full of tourists. We saw groups from the Philippines, Argentina and Europe as well as other North American Jewish communities. There were Birthright groups everywhere.

While standing in a long line at a falafel stand in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, I struck up a conversation with a young woman who was there with Honeymoon Israel, a program that brings Jewish couples in their first five years of marriage to Israel for a 10-day trip. (Honeymoon Israel is for couples in which both partners are Jewish and for interfaith Jewish couples. It tries to bring couples from the same geographic area. The young woman I met was on a trip from Atlanta.)

Israel is busy because business is booming there. *The Times of Israel* recently reported that Bill Ford of Ford Motor Company was in Tel Aviv opening a new research center to develop computer vision and machine learning algorithms, both of which are used in self-driving cars. Nissan and Renault are doing the same.

It is the nature of news media to focus on controversy. Candidly, that's

what sells. So the image of Israel we get from news outlets is usually negative. The negative is absolutely there. The conflict with the Palestinians, especially those in Gaza, is not going away soon. Hezbollah, Iran's proxy, is stockpiling missiles.

But everyday life in Israel tells a different story. Arab Israelis were the staff in our Jerusalem hotel; Abu Hasan Hummus in Jaffa was full of Israeli Jews and Arabs eating side by side (including this American Jew); the pharmacist at the SuperPharm in Be'er Sheva was wearing a head scarf. (A large percentage, perhaps a majority of the pharmacists in Israel are Israeli Arabs.) Everyday life in Israel shows a country that is thriving economically, socially and culturally.

Toward the end of the trip, our group visited the Children's Heart Hospital in Tel Aviv where children from around the world, including Palestinian and other Arab children, receive state-of-the-art medical treatment. This commitment to caring never makes the news media but it too is a regular part of Israeli life.

My favorite stop on the trip was the Yemin Orde Youth Village, a residential high school for children from dysfunctional immigrant families. Our presenters were two Ethiopian Jewish women who had gone through the program. Yemin Orde gives teenagers both an education and the life skills needed for the army and adulthood.

For sure, we saw Israel through sympathetic Jewish eyes. Our trip was planned by an Israeli-American tour company. All of us had been to Israel multiple times. We wanted to be wowed and we were. But there is a vibrancy – and a goodness – in Israel that people who only know about Israel from the media don't see. They are missing a lot.▲

Rabbi Marc Sack serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers.

COMMENTARY BRIEFS

THANK YOU, FLORIDA GOVERNOR DESANTIS

- ◆ Even before his trip to Israel, in the weeks after Ron DeSantis was elected governor last year, he immediately took action on behalf of the Jewish state. Florida's cabinet recognized Jerusalem as "Israel's eternal capital," invested \$10 million in Israel Bonds, and blacklisted Airbnb because of its plan to boycott listings in West Bank settlements, which the global company has since reversed.
- ◆ This week, DeSantis repeatedly spoke out against the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, leading the first official trade mission to the West Bank led by a U.S. governor – with two dozen business leaders.
- ◆ "Anti-Semitism is driving the BDS movement, and you cannot separate

the two," he said at the Gush Etzion Industrial Zone, meeting with Jewish and Arab businesspeople who oppose boycotts. "We are not going to discriminate against certain Israelis – and if people do... we will take action accordingly."

- ◆ "You have people that are willing to trade with Iran, the leading state sponsor of terrorism in the world – some of the worst regimes in the world – and yet they only want to boycott the one Jewish and democratic state in the world," he said. "If you support BDS in Florida, you are dead, politically," he added.
- ◆ The Florida delegation signed over 20 memoranda of understanding in multiple fields including business, trade, academia, innovation and tourism. (Editorial, May 31, *Jerusalem Post*)▲

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Rising Anti-Semitism in Germany: an on-the-ground assessment

As I write these words, my wife Vickie and I are spending five weeks in Germany speaking about the Shoah and reconciliation in several schools. In addition, I am teaching interfaith groups in synagogues and preaching in synagogues and churches, encouraging Germans to learn from the past to create a better future.

■ Rabbi Stephen Fuchs

I was not surprised, therefore, when several people back home sent me a link to the feature story, "The New German Anti-Semitism," which appeared in the May 21 edition of *The New York Times Magazine*.

Anti-Semitism, like the Hydra of Greek mythology, is a monster with many heads. I often characterize it as a chronic condition that can be kept under control, but not cured. Anti-Semitism comes from both the left and the right; politics, economics, religious beliefs and racist theories all have provoked it throughout history, and each of these forces plays a role in its re-emergence in Germany.

Two additional factors are at play as well. The first is that the Jewish population of 20,000 left in Germany after the Holocaust has swelled to 200,000. This increase is the result of an influx of immigrants and refugees from the former Soviet Union. The second factor is the flow into Germany, since 2015, of

Syrian refugees who have been raised in an atmosphere where Israelis – synonymous in the minds of many, though not all, with Jews – are the enemy.

The paradox is that Russian Jews, because of their native land's longtime support of the Arab war effort against Israel, align themselves in Germany with the right-wing AFD (Alternative for Germany) party. That party is under scrutiny for promoting neo-Nazi activities. But their staunchly anti-Syrian refugee stance is what attracts many Russian Jews to them.

A complicated scenario, indeed.

As *The New York Times Magazine* article notes: "It can be difficult to determine the root of anti-Semitic crimes. When researchers looked at all reported anti-Semitic incidents in Berlin in 2018, they were unable to determine the ideological motivation in nearly half the cases."

However, it is not difficult to understand this statistic: From 2017 to 2018, there was a 60 percent rise in violent anti-Semitic crimes. Equally easy to comprehend is this one: Thirty percent of those who responded to a 2015 ADL survey in Germany "hate Jews because of the way they behave."

As detailed in James Angelos' article, Felix Klein, Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany, cares less about parsing the different Hydra heads of the new anti-Semitism in Germany and more about controlling it. "The right strategy," he says, "is to denounce any form of anti-Semitism. I don't want to start a discussion about which

one is more problematic or dangerous than the other."

Fortunately, those whom Vickie and I have encountered in our travels to speak and teach in different parts of Germany have, without exception, treated us with respect and dignity and as most welcome guests.

Nonetheless, there is a "fear factor."

We are not naïve. Our minds' eyes cannot ignore what we envision we see from our trains' windows through the Black Forest region en route to Freiburg and our many other destinations: Rottweilers and S.S. soldiers searching for Jews in the forests.

Our "fear factor" intensifies because we both acknowledge that what James Angelos reports about Germany is occurring, too, in an eerily similar way in the United States today.

In both countries, the government and educational authorities should take

to heart Felix Klein's advice: Denounce anti-Semitism through educational forums, public service announcements, and school programs such as the one Vickie and I present. Schools should educate students to learn from the horrors of the past so as not to repeat them. In addition, there should be swift sanction for anti-Semitic speech and severe punishment for anti-Semitic acts of violence.

No Jew should ever fear to wear a Star of David or a *kipah* (yarmulke) in public, nor should Christians fear wearing a cross, Muslims a hijab, or Sikhs a turban. Germany, the United States and all other countries, too, must do all in their power to become places in which people – no matter their religion – are safe to identify publicly with their faith.▲

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

An inspirational meeting

Can you believe it is already July? The snowbirds have departed for northern destinations and new visitors are appearing, thinking about moving to Florida. It is again a time for new beginnings. As I sat pondering over the last few years, I began to think of the many people who have had an effect on the directions that my life has taken. Sometimes the most beautiful encounters are those that are unplanned.



■ Rabbi Devora Buchen

I had been invited to a music festival in Ojai, California – a marvelous event where many musicians from all over come to perform together. There was a rest period and so I took a walk, whereupon I met an older gentleman

and we began to talk. I had no idea that he was world renowned. His name was Krishnamurti. What I remember most about our first meeting was the conversation and how inspired I was by his being. He was one of the most compassionate souls that I have ever had the honor to spend time with.

His life had been dedicated to saving this world – *tikkun olam*.

The years have passed but the memory of our subsequent conversations have guided me in attending to the many requests and needs of our community.

"Save the world
But do not try to achieve it
Do what comes naturally
The desire is strong
Compassion blossoms"
May our world have peace.▲

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

Lay leaders and rabbis

Some of you know that this is one of my very favorite stories. I'd venture that virtually every American rabbi over 40 probably knows it!

A rabbi who had served her congregation for a number of years came to intensive care after a major heart attack to find her synagogue president seated beside her bed.

"Rabbi," said the president, "I am so relieved to hear that you'll be okay! You will be pleased to know that the Board of Directors passed a resolution wishing you a speedy recovery! Then she quickly added, "I am happy to report that the vote was 11 to 4!"

Typical wry Jewish humor for sure with that *knipel* (little pinch and twist) at the end. But, as I recall from the years that I labored under synagogue Boards of Directors, an 11-4 split is often a landslide for the rabbi!

I am hardly the first one to wonder why it has to be so hard so much of the time for rabbis and lay leaders to get along. It's especially hard on rabbis who often are the most sincere. They grow up studying all about the ancient Hakhmim (Sages) and learning to revere the words and lives of the great Rabbanim who followed to expand and deepen the received traditions. They go on to seminaries that teach them and urge them to be learned, high-minded leaders of their people just like the great ones that came before them whose teachings are the cornerstone of everything they are learning to prepare for their rabbinical calling and vocation.

Then what happens? Years and years of 11-4 votes, and not always in their favor! It can be a real soul-crushing letdown!

Now don't get me wrong. There

are times when genuinely inspired rabbis are blessed to work with, not for, visionary lay leaders who are among the most decent human beings you'll ever want to meet. We rabbis, especially in the first decades, can always learn a lot from these gifted lay-leader partners. We may be a mile deep in Jewish learning but are often just a few inches wide in life experience, especially the experience of working with groups of people, creating and leading successful organizations of all sorts.

We'd all like to believe that "the cream floats to the top" for rabbinic and lay community leadership and, thank Heaven, it often does, both in synagogue and other Jewish communal institutions. When it doesn't, it's a messy "mix and match" situation.

When competent inspired rabbis work with visionary, well-seasoned lay leaders, together they can create wholesome outcomes the meet the needs of their people and then some. Of course, like everyone else, lay leaders want the best rabbis, but if they happen to stumble upon one, well then, you have the not-so-funny story at the beginning of this column.

And then you have the saddest match – chronically sick synagogues that find unethical, self-seeking "spiritual leaders" who are able to get along just fine in the sludge and even thrive in the moral morass. They're in it for the money in a forever futile attempt to satisfy a damaged ego. It should go without saying that, behind a mirage of progress, over time this creates a downward death spiral for the organization.

This why we find in the first verse of the first psalm in our Sacred Writings: "Blessed is the one that moves not in the circle of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the place of the scornful..."▲

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.

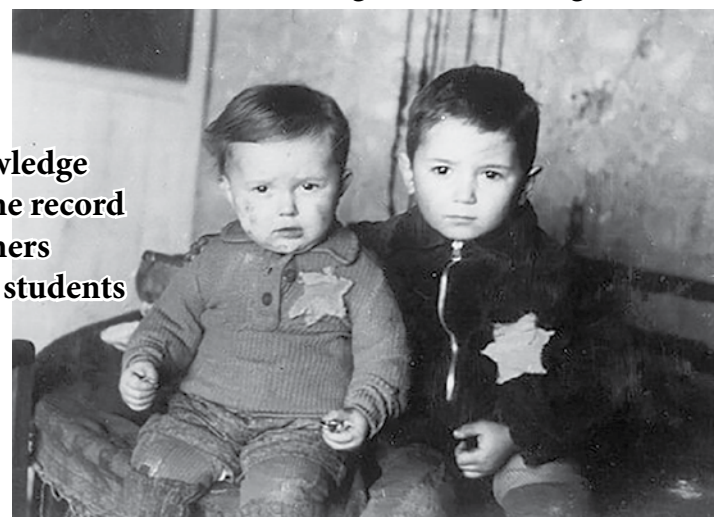
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Dr. Paul Bartrop, Director

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Rabbi Gittelsohn's memorial sermon

As we approach the fourth of July and celebrate our country and its ideals, I'm reminded of a story I first heard from Michael Feldberg, Ph.D., a scholar of American



■ Rabbi Nicole Luna

Jewish history. The story begins at the battle of Iwo Jima, one of the most devastating battles during World War II. The American invading force at Iwo Jima included approximately 1,500 Jewish Marines, including

Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn, the first Jewish chaplain in the Marine Corps. To honor the fallen and dedicate the Marine Cemetery after the battle, the presiding division chaplain, Warren Cuthriell, a Protestant minister, planned to hold a combined religious service. In a spirit of interfaith cooperation advanced for its time, he invited Rabbi Gittelsohn to deliver the memorial sermon.

But a culture of religious bigotry and prejudice reigned. Other Christian chaplains protested having Rabbi Gittelsohn preach, and ultimately three separate religious memorials were held – Jewish, Protestant and Catholic. Yet three Protestant chaplains refused to give into the bigotry. They boycotted their own memorial service and joined the Jewish congregation and Rabbi

Gittelsohn to listen to the sermon he had originally written for a combined service. And then they took action. Not only did they show up, but they ensured Rabbi Gittelsohn's words would be heard by all Americans. One of them borrowed the manuscript and circulated several thousand copies to his regiment. And even in an age before email or Facebook, his powerful message spread. The sermon was shared in Marines' letters home to families, in local newspapers and ultimately in *Time* magazine. The Army distributed it by shortwave radio to broadcast to American troops around the world. It was read on national radio on Memorial Day 1945 and many years after.

Fifty years later, Rabbi Gittelsohn was invited to read his sermon at the 50th anniversary memorial of the battle, held at the Iwo Jima statue in Washington D.C. His message remains painfully relevant for us today. He wrote the following, using the language of his time:

"Here lie men who loved America because their ancestors generations ago helped in her founding, and other men who loved her with equal passion because they themselves or their own fathers escaped from oppression to her blessed shores. Here lie officers and men, Negroes and whites, rich men and poor...together. Here are Protestants, Catholics and Jews together. Here no man prefers another because of his

faith or despises him because of his color. Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or allowed. Among these men, there is no discrimination. No prejudices. No hatred. Theirs is the highest and purest democracy... We here solemnly swear that this shall not be in vain. Out of this and from the suffering and sorrow of

those who mourn this will come, we promise, the birth of a new freedom for the sons of men everywhere."

As we celebrate the founding of America this month, we pray that we may truly live out Rabbi Gittelsohn's call.▲

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

Person to person

One of the great purposes of law is to protect people; to help the individual, and to preserve not only the sacredness but the welfare of each human life. The importance of every person is an unchanging eternal fact of life as well as of religion. People are the ultimate values in this world; everything else comes second.



■ Rabbi Solomon Agin

No matter who we are or where we are or what we do, it is the person that should determine our thoughts and our actions. When a physician is about to operate, he or she is not merely cutting into flesh or dissecting a body, he/she is treating a living person. When a lawyer is involved in a legal matter, he/she should think of his/her client not as just a case, but as a human being. Almost every under-

taking in this world could be improved if we would but be aware that we are dealing not with things or decisions or programs, but rather with persons.

We should struggle to maintain this awareness even more fully in our technological, computerized and automated society, which tends to obliterate the person. All of us tend to forget that the essential purpose of living is to make ourselves truly human.

A secretary at an airline office in Washington, D.C., was heard to answer the phone: "Our automatic answering device is away for repair, this is a person speaking." Let us resolve to speak as a person to other persons. And in the last analysis we must also listen carefully, because in every case "a person is speaking."

The welfare, right and honor of every individual, even the lowest, is the community's concern.▲

Rabbi Solomon Agin serves at Temple Shalom in Port Charlotte.

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

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

TEMPLE BETH EL REFORM
16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908
Rabbi Nicole Luna
E-mail: rabbiluna@templebethel.com
Preschool director: Jesyca Virnig
President: Governance Committee
Email: governancetbe@gmail.com
Phone: 433-0018 • Fax: 433-3235
Web site: www.templebethel.com
Shabbat services: 7:30 p.m. Friday; Torah study 9:00 a.m. Saturday; B'nai Mitzvah 10:30 a.m. Saturday
Religious & Hebrew School: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 Sunday
Judaica Gift Gallery
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM REFORM
702 S.E. 24th Ave., Cape Coral, FL 33990
Rabbi Devora Buchen
President: Harvey Wolfson
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: Barry Fulmer
Phone: 732-780-2016
Email: batyamsanibel@gmail.com
Cantor: Murray Simon
Web site: www.batyam.org
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday (Oct-Apr) 7:00 p.m. Friday (May-Sept)
Adult Education:
Saturday, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Nov-Apr)
Jewish Current Events: Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (Nov-Apr)
Write: P.O. Box 84, Sanibel, FL 33957
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

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

SYNAGOGUES & ORGANIZATIONS

IN LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

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

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

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

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

CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ORTHODOX
5620 Winkler Road
Fort Myers, FL 33919
Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz
Phone: 433-7708 • Fax: 481-9109
E-mail: rabbim@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

TEMPLE JUDEA SCHOOLS
Fort Myers

Tab Scribner,
Director of Congregational Learning
I now understand what "Quiet Season" means... and I miss the kids. The good news is that the summer won't last long (sorry kids) and we will be back at it on Sunday, August 25 for the first day of Religious School. In many ways I can't wait for things to get started up again. We have so much planned for next year.

In addition to our regular religious school programming, we are extending the learning through our Post-B'nei Mitzvah program, Geshet. Our program is structured with the busy teenage schedule in mind with shorter "units" to minimize those feelings of

being disconnected when life gets in the way.

Have you ever made a shofar? A real one?

Have you ever tied tzitzit? If you haven't, this year is your chance to do so. We are very busy this summer at Temple Judea as we make plans for next year. In September, Rabbi Gutnik from Boca Raton will join us for a special shofar construction clinic. In November, our older students will make their own tallitot and more. We are also planning special events with our friends at Temple Beth El.

This past year we learned a lot about ourselves and our school. This coming year is our opportunity to thrive in Jewish life. To join us, please contact me at tjswfledu@gmail.com or 239.433.0201.

BBYO happenings

By Jessica Zimmerman, Associate Regional Dir., North Florida Region

In May, Ft. Myers BBYO joined Naples BBYO for City Convention, which consisted of a one-night overnight at the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples. The teens enjoyed an experience on a party bus, Havdalah on the beach, dinner on the town, and traditions and surprises throughout the night. One special surprise was the arrival of a Kona Ice truck. We bid our seniors farewell. We will miss them very much and look forward to hearing about their accomplishments in college and beyond.

Ft. Myers and Naples BBYO also hosted a parent-only night out at Painting with a Twist. We had a wonderful time making new friends, connecting

with old friends, learning a little bit about BBYO, and learning a thing or two about painting.

This summer, while BBYO teens are away at leadership summer camps or traveling the world with BBYO Passport, we will be on hiatus in terms of local programming until early August when school is back in session.

If you are interested in being added to our email list to receive information about middle and high school programs, please email me at jesszimmerman@bbyo.org.

We continue the search to find two advisors for our girls' and boys' chapters. Advising is a volunteer position and asks anywhere from six to ten hours of your time per month. Be in touch if you are interested.

Your friends at Ft. Myers BBYO wish you a lovely summer. ▲



Jessica Zimmerman

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

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

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91% of PJ Library families say that PJ Library has been a valuable parenting tool.

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

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

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



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July 12:	8:06
July 19:	8:04
July 26:	8:01

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SHARE the experience of reading with your children as they grow with PJ Library books.

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Enrollment is open to Jewish families with children between the ages of six months to eight years living in Lee & Charlotte Counties.

Families can sign up for PJ Library at pjlibrary.org

HADASSAH
Collier/Lee Chapter
(732) 539-4011

A legacy is more than a bequest

Diane Schwartz

Our lives are filled with material things like money, family treasures or just plain “stuff” that often become legacy gifts. However, if we have nurtured our families with Jewish values, we have a head start on leaving a legacy beyond the material. We can emulate the belief of caring, concern and, importantly, leadership. Truly, a legacy of values!

We teach our children and grandchildren what’s right, true and moral. Even better, we can take a stand on principles and model the behavior we value. We are in such a moment at this time. And we need to act now!

As anti-Semitism once again rears its ugly head, and outright acts of violence and hate are increasing, those of us in Hadassah stand committed to the safety and security of the Jewish peo-

ple and others no matter where we live. Hadassah strives to expand Holocaust and anti-hate education nationwide, and hold accountable those who perpetrate harassment and violence.

Recently, leaders of the Jewish community joined Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney and Hadassah CEO/Executive Director Janice Weinman at a press conference for the reintroduction of the Federal Never Again Education Act (H.R. 943). This bill, reintroduced by Rep. Maloney and Rep. Elise Stefanik, would expand Holocaust and anti-hate education around the country. As anti-Semitic threats and attacks rise nationally, Hadassah is serving as the non-governmental organization (NGO) convener of this legislation.

“We are at a dangerous moment in time. Anti-Semitism is on the rise around the world and here at home, and the memory of the Holocaust is fading for large numbers of our youth,” said Congresswoman Maloney, after wel-

coming representatives from 12 Jewish organizations. “It is simply not enough to condemn hateful, violent attacks to the Jewish community. We must take steps to educate all people about the horrors of the Holocaust and the consequences of intolerance.”

The Never Again Education Act would expand and encourage Holocaust education and its lessons for contemporary conflict. The legislation would authorize the Department of Education to award Holocaust education grants to educational institutions offering classes, resources, teacher training and student field trips.

“Hadassah’s New York and Washington, D.C., advocacy teams are working closely with the congresswomen and their staffs, and we will continue to take action until we see the passage of this important legislation,” promised Janice Weinman.

Supporting meaningful legislation through its passage is one way to “live” our values and seek a better world. In order to ensure that we never forget, we

must remember the millions of lives lost and how creeping anti-Semitism caused such havoc and tragedy. Urge your legislators to support the Never Again Education Act today!

Call, email or write your congressional representative in support of the Never Again Education Act and use the information in this article as “Talking Points” for your outreach.

Our children or grandchildren will ask, “What did you do?” Let’s answer with the conviction of our values. Let’s leave this action as part of our legacy.

Save the Date

Hadassah supports its important advocacy, medical and educational work through events and activities as noted below. We would love to have you join us.

Sunday, August 18: Summer Fun Pot Luck Dinner at Autumn Woods at 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Susan Falkenstein at 203.257.8598 or sweetsusan62@gmail.com.

GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

(239) 963-9347

Why Holocaust programs are important – even if they’re not fun

Ida Margolis

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington (USHMM) sends a monthly newsletter to its members just as many other museums do, including our local Holocaust Museum. The theme of the May USHMM newsletter was “Fighting Anti-Semitism.” The excerpt below from an article titled “Confronting a New Era of Antisemitism” in the USHMM newsletter is important to read and think about.

“The Museum is alarmed by a resurgence of dangerous and deadly anti-Semitism, which is not only a global threat, but a national one. We have clearly entered a new era, but we can each take action by unequivocally con-

demning anti-Semitism wherever it appears. The Holocaust is a reminder of the way hate can infect a society and the dangers of indifference. Taking the lessons of this history to as many people as possible is more urgent than ever....

In the aftermath of the moral and societal failures that made the Holocaust possible, confronting anti-Semitism and all forms of hatred is critical.”

And from Contemporary Global Anti-Semitism: A Report Provided to the United States Congress United States Department of State March 2008:

“History has shown that wherever anti-Semitism has gone unchecked, the persecution of others has been present or not far behind. Defeating anti-Semitism must be a cause of great importance not only for Jews, but for all people who value humanity and justice.”

So, what can we do? I really don’t have the answer, but as you read above,

it is essential to bring the lessons of the Holocaust to as many people as possible. That is why it is important to support our local Holocaust Museum as well as the USHMM. If you are not already a member of both, please consider becoming one. Visit <https://www.ushmm.org/support/membership/become-a-member> for the USHMM, and www.holocaustmuseumsfwl.org/membership/ for our wonderful Museum in Naples.

GenShoah SWFL is fortunate to be an affinity group of the Holocaust Museum and Cohen Education Center of SWFL. As an affinity group, we make an effort to present public programs of importance as well as programs specifically for those who are 2gs (Second Generation). We have been planning the programs for next season, and they will be announced in September. GenShoah SWFL also emails a newsletter each month, and you can find our mission statement in the newsletter. Our mission statement includes “promotion

of Holocaust Education and Human Rights, and support of the Holocaust Museum and Cohen Education Center of SWFL.” If you are a 2g anywhere in SWFL and have not contacted GenShoah, please do so. We would love to get to know you. And if you want to receive the newsletters to make sure you know about upcoming events, email me at genshoahswfl@gmail.com.

When someone says to me, “I would rather do something more fun than go to another program about the Holocaust or anti-Semitism,” I respond, “So would I.” But I would love to be able to say that there is no more anti-Semitism, there is no bigotry, and that all people everywhere enjoy human rights. Until then I will be working to do exactly what the USHMM said to do: “Take the lessons of this history to as many people as possible.” Unfortunately, this is more urgent than ever.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

(239) 566-1771

Who cares about the Jewish history of SWFL? YOU DO!

Marina Berkovich

Each of us is able to live here because others came before us to trailblaze. Not too long ago in Collier County, it meant being subjected to severe anti-Semitism, even after the 1964 Civil Rights Acts that outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

At a recent luncheon that was attended by many newcomers – and their numbers will escalate as baby boomer retirees are moving to Florida in record numbers – a woman doubted the veracity of my information. “It cannot be true,” she said, “we would have heard about this in New York.”

There are so many facts New Yorkers and other “northerners” do not realize about the deep-south State of Florida and its Southwest corner. For example, people are nice to one another here. They are more patient and

less hostile. And it’s not because of the climate, as another one of the recent arrivals insisted confidently, after only living here fulltime for two months. It’s because of the Southern culture and its people. Yes, the same culture that reveres the legacy of the Civil War and the same people who want to re-enact the battle of Fort Myers in 2020. We just don’t honk any more, and even if we drove like impatient maniacs back up the east coast, we reserve that behavior, well, maybe for when we drive in Miami. And we do not lump everything about the South under “slavery” and “white supremacy” labels.

It is said that the mid-1960s’ wave of settlers from Chicago was followed by the tidal surge of Ohioans. Perhaps that explains a peculiar historical fact, that SWFL, with its predominantly Democrat population, turned Republican around that time. Now we are witnessing a huge exodus from the New York Metro Area and New England to destinations in SWFL.

On a recent plane ride, a Canadian-native was seated next to me. She just

sold her Boston home and was traveling up north to wrap up and move. “Can’t wait,” she said. “Love the beach and weather, but will have to learn to tolerate the absolute absence of history and culture. Not a decent museum between Tampa and Miami.” She brought to mind the words of a favorite law professor from my college days. “There is always one of you in every class. Without class.” I cannot count the times I have used this line over the years of my professional career.

So to all of you who will be reading this at your home away from Naples during the summer, step up and make Jewish history of Southwest Florida important to you all year. Where else can you make as huge an impact on your community – Jewish and general – as you are able to make here? And to the rest of you, permanently local – what else do you have to do in the summer except expand your involvement with our organization? We are here all year long as the history quest doesn’t depend on seasonality and does not discriminate.

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida will present five

documentaries from our Southwest Florida Jewish Pioneers series over the summer, in partnership with WCA. You should join our mailing list to get notified of all events we offer during the year.

At the Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida, we strive to preserve the eyewitness accounts. The Eyewitness Stories are featured at the Virtual Museum of Southwest Florida Jewish History.

Membership in The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida is open to anyone who is interested in our mission of local Jewish history preservation.

Here’s how to reach us:
The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida
8805 Tamiami Trail North,
Suite # 255, Naples FL 34108
833.547.7935 (833.JHS.SWFL)
www.jhsswf.org ~ office@jhsswf.org
Virtual Museum of SWFL
Jewish History <http://jewishhistorysouthwestflorida.org/>

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**SHALOM LIFE CENTER
Fort Myers
(239) 218-3433**

Lawrence & Robin Dermer

Summertime is a time for us to relax and enjoy life at a slower pace. During “season” we tend to be extremely busy, and in the hustle and bustle of our modern life, we’re sometimes drawn into activities that separate us from the deeper dimension of ourselves. With our smartphones, computers, tablets and all our social media, we often get caught up on the surface of our lives. We tend to allow the noise and chatter to distract us from our Divine connection with G-d, which is the essence of our nature and the one and only true path to happiness.

If we remain unaware that the noise may be blocking our spiritual connection, we risk forgetting who we are and being swallowed by a culture of soulless materialism. So, what is the alternative?

In an effort to achieve higher con-

sciousness and eternal bliss, we could give away all our worldly possessions to charity and live in a monastery in the Himalayas or better yet, move to Israel! More practically, we can grow where we are planted and strive for balance.

The quieter summer season is a great time to practice balance in our lives and strengthen our Judaism. We can use the less chaotic time to deepen our relationship with G-d without radically altering our entire lifestyle. By taking time to pause and live life with a higher purpose, we can infuse the energy of mitzvot into our lives.

Each mitzvah is a connection between our world and a higher world. Through a mitzvah, we can take some part of our mundane world and elevate it into a holy experience. The simple act of lighting the candles on Shabbat can be elevated so the experience brings us the symbolic meanings of light, infusing our lives and our homes with holiness. By making a blessing on Shabbat with a beautiful Kiddush

cup or a challah cover that your children or grandchildren made or was handed down from your parents, you can raise these rituals higher and make them more transformative by connecting past and future generations. The simple physical act of drinking wine, eating bread, walking in nature and being with our families can bring joy and positivity into our lives.

A positive mitzvah is one we are commanded to perform with joy. Happiness can be revealed with a simple choice to change our attitude and expectation of the outcome. In the words of Nike – JUST DO IT! The physical act of performing the mitzvah will alter your spiritual state and change your mood, which can ultimately change your reality. People tell us how they sometimes feel too tired to attend a Shabbat service, but they push themselves and always leave feeling renewed, refreshed and uplifted.

Set a goal this summer to be happy and receive out of life everything you deserve. Joy is one of the precious gifts that Judaism brings into our lives. By

making our life happier, the world becomes more beautiful and illuminates with G-d’s divine spirit.

Sounds simple, doesn’t it? Sometimes the simplest solution is the best one. Try one little mitzvah, maybe even two or three. They’re guaranteed to change your life. *Ani v’atah neshaneh et ha’olam.* Together we can change the world.

Join us for summertime musical, meaningful and joyful Shabbat services every Friday at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday mornings for Torah study at 10:00 a.m. Our clubs run throughout summer and we are preparing to ensure the SWFL Jewish community 5780 High Holiday experience at Shalom Life Center exceeds your expectations. Our choir will be back along with our incredible symphonic ensemble and world-renowned concert accompanist. Let your spirit soar at Shalom Life Center where prayer is inspirational, meaningful and musical. Visit our website at www.shalomlifecenter.org for more information on our many clubs, programs and special events.

**HAZAK 55+ CHAPTER
at Temple Judea
(239) 433-0201**

Joyce Rosinger

Temple Judea’s active HAZAK 55+ Chapter is a chartered member of the United Synagogue of Conservative Ju-

daism. HAZAK Chapters are for singles or couples. It’s an organization that enables members to meet and socialize with each other. Our monthly programs vary in nature. Membership in the organization is open to the community.

HAZAK’s regular programs will

begin again in the fall. At that time, we are also planning movie programs in addition to other activities each month. Some programs planned will be car-pooled day trips.

Members of the community are always welcome to join our group and attend any of our programs. The annual dues are a modest \$10 per person.

Join HAZAK and meet new friends. We look forward to meeting all you 55+ people. Try us. You’ll like us. For more information, contact Joyce or George Rosinger, or Andy Chernow at tjhazak@gmail.com.

**JEWISH WAR VETERANS
Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400
(239) 246-3151**

Eryka Aptakerr

Our last meeting held a lot of emotions, as we honored two of our deceased members, Harry Shapiro and Stan Warshaw. Harry was a WWII veteran and Stan was a Korean War veteran. As part of our Post’s tradition, we invited their family members to attend our meeting and “unveiled” their names on our memorial plaque of deceased veteran members.

What made this meeting even more meaningful and emotional, was that it coincided with Memorial Day. The names of all our Post’s deceased veterans were announced and “Taps” was played. Unveiling the name of veteran Harry Shapiro was his son David Shapiro. Unveiling the name of veter-

an Stanley Warshaw was his wife Lee Warshaw, accompanied by their daughters and grandson.

This was a busy meeting in announcing all of the Post’s Memorial Day weekend’s activities. Activities included: (1) On Friday night, May 24, our annual Memorial Day Service at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral. (2 & 3) On Sunday, May 26, our service at the Temple Beth El Cemetery in Fort Myers at 9:30 a.m. This service included full military honors with a firing party and “Taps.” Immediately following this service, there was a repeat ceremony at the Coral Ridge Cemetery in Cape Coral where many Jewish veterans and Post 400 members are buried. (4) On Monday May 27, Memorial Day, our Post took part in the City of Fort Myers Memorial Day Ceremony at the Fort Myers Memorial Gardens. Our Post supplied the bugler for “Taps” and half the firing party along with American Legion Post 38. A “mini ceremony” was held for one of our deceased members, Bob Kummins, who passed away in 2014. Members performing the rifle salute were Harvey Charter, Bob Ruberto, Isaac Osin and Herb Lutsky. Our commander, Harvey Charter, played “Taps” on a real bugle, as Bob Kummins had been a bugler.

We also held our election of

officers at the meeting. While we have a full slate of officers, including both elected and appointed positions, our congratulations go to the following elected officers: Commander Harvey Charter, Sr. Vice Commander Robert Ruberto, Jr. Vice Commanders Isaac Osin and Herb Lutsky. A newly cre-

ated position of Jr. Vice Commander Emeritus goes to WWII veteran Hy Tuchman. Congratulations to all!



Memorial plaque with photos of Stan Warshaw and Harry Shapiro

Our Post will select the recipient of the Herb Schwartz Memorial Scholarship and the announcement of the winner will be at our June 30 meeting and in next month’s addition of L’CHAYIM.

The next meeting of JWV-Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400 will be held on Sunday, July 28 at 9:30 a.m. We meet at the Jewish Federation office in Fort Myers. Come join this wonderful and committed group as we enjoy bagels and cream cheese, and engage in great conversation. To become a member, or

if you have questions, please contact Commander Harvey Charter at hbcharter@aol.com or 239.246.3151.

The Jewish War Veterans, founded in 1896, is the oldest continuing veterans organization in America. We are challenged in the pursuit of new members to keep our organization alive. With the loss of many of our WWII veterans, we are striving to have members of our younger generation(s) join and show support to the JWV. We have a Patron membership for non-veterans. If your family members were veterans, think about honoring their memory by joining JWV Post 400. I joined in honoring the memory of my father, a Korean War veteran. Best decision I have ever made. This group has been a blessing in my life and some of the members have become like family too me. We hope to see you at our next meeting!

**Guidelines
for publication**

DEADLINES:

5 p.m. on the 5th of each month for all articles and photos. If the 5th falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is the following business day.

WORD LIMITS:

600 words for temples and organizations providing materials for their respective sections. Those exceeding these limits will be edited to fit.

SUBMISSIONS:

Email: LChayim36@gmail.com
Articles should be sent as text files, Word files, or Rich Text Format files. Receipt will be acknowledged if requested. Photos may be submitted electronically; high-resolution JPG or TIF formats preferred.



Harvey Charter, Herb Lutsky, Bob Ruberto and Issac Osin held a Memorial Day service at Temple Beth El Cemetery



Harvey Charter, Herb Lutsky, Isaac Osin and Bob Ruberto held a service to honor departed Post members buried at Coral Ridge Cemetery in Cape Coral

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**TEMPLE BETH EL
Fort Myers**

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

In a time of rising anti-Semitism, it's important to remember, lift up and celebrate those countries that have been safe havens for Jews in the past. The Netherlands is one of those places. Many Dutch citizens protected Jews during the Nazi takeover of Holland during WWII. Perhaps less well known is the Netherlands American Cemetery, the only American military cemetery in Holland. To show their gratitude toward their WWII liberators, the Dutch people maintain their commitment to the memory of their liberation, which came at a heavy price for those who fought for it. This is one way they thank American liberators who are buried in the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial in the town of Margraten.

Local citizens pay tribute to them to this day by caring for the graves of over 8,000 Americans and the names on the Walls of the Missing (comprising over 1,700 names) with a photo. Perhaps unique to this cemetery

is the living connection between Margraten cemetery and the Dutch people. Since 1945, members of the local community have adopted the gravesites of our fallen. They bring flowers to the Margraten cemetery and research the lives of service members as a way to honor their sacrifice. The graves of Jewish soldiers are marked with a Star of David.

Spearheaded by Roland Eisenberg, a financial donation to support the Margraten cemetery enables the continuing remembrance activities for the thousands of fallen soldiers buried there. The names of these men and women are known, but who were they? During the Faces of Margraten tribute, a face is put to their names, by decorating their graves or names on the Walls of the



Andi Elkes, Temple Beth El Sisterhood Director, standing in front of the chapel with the doors decorated by a Tree of Life. The chapel is attached to a wall of plaques. That wall also contains the unidentifiable remains of 1,722 soldiers. (Other photos: Netherlands American Cemetery)



Missing with a personal photo. A biennial event, the next Faces of Margraten will take place in May 2020. (Sources: abmc.org and thefacesofmargraten.com)



Temple Beth-El's Cemetery Committee hosted its Memorial Day Service in the Garden of Memories, the TBE-owned cemetery located within the City of Fort Myers Cemetery. Led by Rabbi Luna and Jewish War Veterans Post 400, names of fallen service members were read, followed by an 18-gun salute. "Taps" was played by Harvey Charter.

A membership benefit at Temple Beth El is a free plot in our Garden of Memories Cemetery with only a one-time beautification fee.

Temple Beth El recently spon-

sored active shooter programs. Lee County Sheriff's Office deputies led two informative and challenging sessions. TBE's Security Task Force has further programs planned for other security issues, involving both house of worship and personal safety. Learning Tree preschool teachers will attend a special safety and security program in early August, provided by the LCSO at no cost. An important takeaway from these programs: if you see something, say something. LCSO deputies would rather arrive at the scene of a false alarm than at a scene of devastation.

Temple Beth El Sisterhood recently enjoyed a Chinese luncheon with a guest author. Mystery writer and Fort Lauderdale resident Nancy Cohen regaled us with stories of her career beginnings as well how some of her characters came to be created. Nancy Cohen's *Bad Hair Day* mystery series are available to borrow from the Lee County Library System.

By the time you read this, the annual visit of the Tzofim Friendship Caravan (Israel Scouts), co-sponsored by Temple Beth El, Temple Judea and the Jewish Federation, will have been realized. Ten Israeli teenagers will have swept in and stolen our hearts with their energy, singing, dancing and goodwill. Every June their visit inspires our SWFL Jewish community. They represent Israel's future. We look forward to next year's visit.



**BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS
Sanibel**

**(732) 780-2016
www.batyam.org**

Rabbi Stephen and Vickie Fuchs were leaders, with Pastor John Danner, of the interreligious group from Bat Yam and the Sanibel Congregational UCC, who journeyed to Israel in early May. After a few extra days in Jerusalem, Rabbi Fuchs and Vickie flew to Germany to continue their mission to educate Germans in small cities and towns about Jews and the Holocaust. Many of their destinations had a Jewish population prior to WWII but had none by the end of the war in 1945.

Their itinerary is established by their longtime partners, Ursula Sieg and Martin Pommerening, Lutheran pastors who believe strongly that Holocaust education remains very important as WWII recedes and hatred of the Jews and "the others" is again a concern in Europe. According to official fig-

ures, anti-Semitic crime and hate crimes targeting foreigners increased almost 20 percent in Germany last year.

Rabbi Fuchs and Vickie have spoken before thousands of Germans, many born after WWII, in churches where no rabbi had ever spoken before.

Recently, Rabbi Fuchs had a book published by Mazo Publishers with offices in Israel and Florida. The title of the book is *...And Often the First Jew*. It is a collection of short essays and reminiscences taken from their five summers of Holocaust education in Germany. Their persistence is admirable and emotional since the father of Rabbi Fuchs was caught up in the 1938 pogrom called Kristallnacht, and Vickie's mother and family relocated several times to avoid capture by the Nazis. Always seeking a positive, hopeful message, Rabbi Fuchs and Vickie decided to speak in Germany because, "we cannot undo the past, but the future is ours to shape." It is also in

keeping with the phrase frequently repeated by Rabbi Fuchs that we are obligated to try to make the world "a more just, caring and compassionate place."

Bat Yam congregant Rabbi James Rudin wrote a review of *...And Often the First Jew* that appeared in the April 22 edition of ReformJudaism.org. Rabbi Rudin is a prolific author and commentator in his own right. He was the National Inter-religious Affairs Director for the American Jewish Committee.

In July, Friday evening Shabbat services, at 7:00 p.m., will be led by congregant volunteers Tanya and Michael Hochschild, and Cheryl and Barry Fulmer. There are some benefits for braving the warm SWFL summer. On Friday, July 26 at 7:30 p.m., Bat Yam will welcome Rabbi Myra Soifer to the bimah for a special Shabbat service. Having been granted leave time from her Peace Corps duties in Panama, Rabbi Soifer is traveling to Sanibel/Fort Myers to join in the weekend festivities in honor of the 50th wedding an-

niversary of Rabbi James and Marcia Rudin.

The Jewish High Holy Days begin late this year with Erev Rosh Hashanah on Sunday, September 29. Once again, Rabbi Stephen and Vickie Fuchs are opening their home on Saturday, September 21 at 7:30 p.m. for Selichot reflection and discussion. Thanks to the effective efforts of Lois Lorsch, for those who come to Bat Yam for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, there will be new prayer books that provide egalitarian language for the English translations and readings on more current topics.

Come to worship, say Kaddish, at our meeting place located on the campus of the Sanibel Congregational UCC at 2050 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel. Members of the community, guests and visitors are always welcome to join with congregants.

Best wishes for a healthy and relaxing summer to all our congregants and friends no matter where in the world they are!

**COMMUNITY FREE SYNAGOGUE
Fort Myers**

**(239) 466-6671
www.fortmyerssynagogue.com**

Friday evening dinners continue weekly throughout the summer starting at 6:30 p.m. There is no charge. Those who wish to bring a dish, salad or dessert are welcome to do so while avoiding dairy ingredients. Vegetarian dishes are especially welcome. Worship follows at 7:30 p.m., conducted by

our remarkable congregational *hazzanim*, gifted musician Joseph Brauer, and with a thought-provoking, educational message from Rabbi Bruce Diamon. A social hour follows.

Sabbath morning Torah Study Breakfasts with the Rabbi also carry on throughout the summer from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in our Community Hall, 10868 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers. A breakfast nosh is always welcome.

Over its 22 years in Fort Myers,

Rabbi Diamond's Sabbath morning Torah classes have become a mainstay of adult Jewish education. The weekly Torah and Haftarah are studied and accompanied by lively discussion and lots of "aha! Moments." It's never too late to start!

The Community Free Synagogue provides free Jewish education including personalized Hebrew tutoring to all Jewish young people ages 8 and above in our area. This special educational opportunity is enriched within a positive, wholesome congregation setting that deeply values and welcomes

young people and their families. There are no membership requirements. For more information, email synfree@comcast.net or call the synagogue office at 239.466.6671.

Now in its 15th year, The Community Free Synagogue is a contemporary alternative to the private membership model, enjoying broad-based participation throughout our area. All C.F.S. activities and programs are free and open to all.

TEMPLE JUDEA

Fort Myers

(239) 433-0201

www.tjswfl.org

Now is the time to become a new member of Chaverot, Temple Judea's Sisterhood, or to renew your membership for the coming year. Connect with new and longstanding members participating together in learning, advocacy, social gatherings and fun times. Whether you are young or old, Jewish by birth or by choice, work outside the home, as well as within the home, are single or married, have children underfoot, have children who are grown or have no children – this is an opportunity for

you to join with or just support other women who are working to make a difference in the life of our synagogue and in the community.

Last year, Chaverot members led services, came together for creative monthly Rosh Chodesh meetings, heard interesting speakers, volunteered in the community, went bowling, painted, learned Israeli dances and enjoyed meals out together, just to name some of the events. And at the end of the year, Chaverot made a generous contribution to the synagogue's Youth Activity Fund.

This year, even more programs are planned, designed to appeal to a variety of the interests and ages of our grow-

ing membership. Lattes and Learning, a mahj madness "fun"raiser, book and movie club, cultural outings to plays and concerts, and a "worship in pink" Shabbat for breast cancer awareness are just a few of the new programs you can look forward to.

Help us continue to make a difference. Call the synagogue office for information on how to join Chaverot. New members of Temple Judea, as of the spring of 2019, receive a complimentary membership to Chaverot for the first year. The membership form must still be filled out and submitted to the office.

Planning continues over the summer by professional staff and lay leadership for the coming year.

Rabbi Sack's lunchtime Torah

study will resume in September.

Our monthly service of meals at the Salvation Army's Meals with Compassion continues. Meals are served on Monday evenings and volunteers are needed for July and August. If you'd like to help, please email lindaidel-son@gmail.com.

Regular scheduled events:

- Friday evening Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m., preceded each week with a wine and cheese reception starting at 6:15 p.m.
- Saturday morning Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Kiddush luncheon
- Morning minyan every Monday at 9:00 a.m.

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

Cape Coral

(239) 772-4555

www.templebethshalomcc.org

I thought things would slow down for summer. Ha! The joke's on me. We had our annual meeting and held elections, and the new board is going gangbusters to breathe new life into every activity at Temple Beth Shalom

We have a new Facebook page – Temple Beth Shalom of Cape Coral, Florida. The address is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/309223796661155>. Please take a look at it and request to join. We would love

to have you as a member so you can see all of the wonderful things going on at Temple Beth Shalom.

Our new congregation president, Peter Simenauer, has appointed a Children's Education Planning Committee that will be making wonderful plans for learning and fun for Jewish children. We know that the children are our future! The committee is comprised of national award-winning educators and will use the latest research to guide it in creating Jewish learning programs that will be exciting, individualized, engaging, and filled with meaningful learning experiences for babies through the

teen years. If you would like to be a part of this planning, please call our office and we will arrange to talk with you about it.

Our film festival was a huge success with each film building on the last. The festival theme was about the families behind Jewish food empires.

It started with Streit's Matzos, then the Russ & Daughters fish empire and finally Nathan's hot dogs. It was educational, entertaining and very emotional. We will restart this very successful event again after the summer.

We were honored to start the Memorial Day weekend with the Jewish War Veterans at our Friday night service. The names of Jewish soldiers who have died in recent wars were read, "Taps" was played, and Harvey Charter and the

rest of the JWV provided inspiration for all of us.

Look for more exciting innovations being rolled out by our new board on our Facebook page and future L'CHAYIM articles. We hope you will join us in our ongoing activities and new adventures.



Commander Harvey Charter plays "Taps"

TEMPLE SHALOM

Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands

(941) 625-2116

www.templeshalomfl.com

The planning committee has been very busy with setting its calendar for the coming year.

The following programs and events have been placed on the calendar:

- September 6: Early Shabbat service at 5:30 p.m. with Shabbat dinner to follow
- September 15: Open House for the unaffiliated from 10:00 a.m. to noon; Dedication of the Memorial Board at 3:00 p.m.
- September 21: 6:00 p.m. Selichot service
- November 5: Book Club and lunch with author Marcia Rudin
- November 17: 3:00 p.m., Student

Choir Master David Sommer and his students

• November 22: After Shabbat Services – David Bernstein, President/CEO of the Jewish Public Affairs Committee

• November 26: Lunch and Learn with the Forward from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

• December 13: Shabbat service – Talk by Rabbi A. James Rudin

• December 22: Hanukkah Eve – The Youth Orchestra of the Southwest Florida Symphony honoring Hanukkah

• Four-part film festival; dates TBA
Many thanks to the Leigh and Sylvia Hershkowitz Foundation, and the Sheldon and Marc Friedman Foundation for making all of our programs and events possible.

For additional information, call the temple office at 941.625.2116.

Michael Shapiro
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Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

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The exclusive way to reach the Jewish Community in Lee and Charlotte counties.

For more information or to place an ad in L'CHAYIM:

Call: Jim Lewin at 239.634.6923
 Email: JamesLewin@jfedlcc.org
 Website: Visit the L'CHAYIM page at www.JewishFederationLCC.org