

JEWISH

news

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF SARASOTA-MANATEE

GREENSPON CAMPUS FOR JEWISH LIFE

OF SARASOTA-MANATEE

February 2024 – Shevat/Adar I 5784

jfedsrq.org

Volume 54, Number 2

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Celebrating 65 Years:

Join us to celebrate our milestone Sunday, Feb. 25!

"Tevye in New York!"

Don't miss the one-night-only performance of Dugan's newest one-man show! Page 11

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Sarasota Jewish Food Festival:

Temple Sinai hosts its 16 annual food festival sure to be a tantalizing day of homemade Jewish delicacies.

The Ora announces Michael's On East exclusive partnership

By Federation Staff

The Ora, our premier event venue opening soon on the Federation campus, is proud to announce that Michael's On East is our exclusive food and beverage catering partner.

Stars of the Sarasota culinary scene since 1987, partners Michael Klauber and Phil Mancini have built a stellar reputation based on innovative cuisine and impeccable service.

"We are already booking a number of outstanding events for 2024," said Deanna McGrath, director of operations for The Ora at the Joel and Gail Morganroth Event Center. "It's crucial that we are best in class in everything we do. Having Michael's On East as our exclusive food and beverage caterer matches the high level of quality we are infusing into every aspect of our venue."

Michael's On East plans to offer a wide selection of choices for food and beverage options for events at The Ora, with plans to work closely with corporate meeting specialists, wedding planners and other event professionals,



Seated from left: Phil Mancini, Michael Klauber, Bruce Udell, Shepard Englander

Standing from left: Wayne Ruben, Joel and Gail Morganroth, Larry Haspel, Kim Adler

along with anyone who wants to have a distinctive, upscale event. The professional team has vast experience accommodating a diverse range of dietary requirements from vegetarian to gluten free and kosher.

"We focus on working with forward-thinking, high-quality organizations, and The Ora is definitely in that category," said Michael Klauber, co-proprietor of Michael's On East. "We are excited about the wide range

of events planned for The Ora, along with the excellence of the venue, which will make the guest experience memorable in many ways," says Phil Mancini, co-proprietor of Michael's On East.

At 30,000 square feet, The Ora will be among the largest and most elegant event venues in the region. The majestic ballroom boasts 10,000 square feet with soaring ceilings, dramatic lighting and configuration possibilities flexible enough to meet the needs of events from large conferences to weddings and corporate galas. Rounding out the venue are the bright and spacious lobby, the 2,300-square-foot Terrace Room with its wall of windows facing the outdoor Plaza terrace and the arty Gallery, ideal for more intimate gatherings.

If you are interested in learning more about The Ora, our exclusive partnership with Michael's On East, or would like to inquire about booking a space, please visit our website at theorasrq.com or contact Director of Operations Deanna McGrath at dmcgrath@theorasrq.com.



Kaplan Community Hall inside The Ora nears completion

A publication of The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

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Federation to celebrate 65 years at The Ora

By Kim Adler, Chief Operating Officer

For nearly 65 years, our Federation has impacted the lives of Jews locally, in Israel and around the world, promoting community every step of the way. In the late 1950s, Jews in Sarasota-Manatee, who were just beginning to have a noticeable presence in the general community, became concerned with the needs of their brothers and sisters around the world, particularly in Israel. They decided it was time to have a central organization to coordinate the activities of the community.

On Feb. 25, 1959, The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee was established as the Sarasota Jewish Community Council. At that time, there were approximately 2,100 Jews in the area.

Today, as we approach our 65th anniversary, our Jewish community has grown to nearly 40,000 people living in Jewish households in Sarasota and Manatee counties. Our Federation is central

continued on next page



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Finishing touches to the Mitchell Family Lobby in The Ora

to the vibrancy of the community, providing opportunities for engagement and learning, promoting support for Israel, working collaboratively with area Jewish and civic organizations and expanding its Greenspon Campus for Jewish Life to provide a place for people of all backgrounds to gather.

It seems only fitting that we invite the entire community to the campus to commemorate this important milestone anniversary at The Ora/Morganroth Event Center on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. “Federation @ 65: Past, Present and Future,” chaired by Stacy Hanan and Patti Wertheimer, will feature a performance by the Keshet Chaim Dance Ensemble, a world-renowned

Jewish and Israeli contemporary dance company, as well as speakers, photos and video presentations highlighting Federation’s impact over the last 65 years. In addition, current Federation president Bruce Udell will publicly welcome incoming president Deb Kabinoff, whose term begins April 1.

You don’t want to miss this celebration! Tickets are \$65 and include a post-performance dessert reception catered by our exclusive in-house caterer, Michael’s On East. Purchase your tickets online at jfedsrq.org/federation65.

Questions? Contact Carol Dierksen at cdierksen@jfedsrq.org or 941-263-4974. 🌐



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Hard questions

By Dr. Liat Alon, Chief Learning & Engagement Officer

Since Oct. 7, many dinner table conversations have revolved around the Israeli Palestinian conflict or the rise in antisemitic incidents here in the U.S., and my home is no exception. My eighth- and tenth-grade children ask many hard questions — some I can explain, others leave me thinking for days. A recent discussion brought back memories of the summer of 2016.

My family and I were living in Rehovot, a city a half hour south of Tel Aviv and about 50 minutes north of Sderot (a town that suffered badly on Oct. 7). That summer, the conflict between Israel and Hamas flared up again, but this time, missiles reached far beyond the 50-mile Gaza Envelope (the area closest to the border with the Gaza Strip) and into our city.

When missiles are fired, a siren alerts residents in the targeted area to take cover. Residents closest to the border have a few seconds to respond; in our city, we had about a minute. In older buildings like ours, the choices are to run to the underground shelter (longer than a minute) or take cover in an internal space furthest from windows. In most buildings, as in ours, that space is the stairwell.

At the time, my oldest daughter was 6 years old, and my youngest not even 4. How would I pluck them out of bed (Hamas often fired missiles at night) and rush to the stairs as fast as I could? Would they be too scared to cooperate? By chance, I heard a child psychologist on the radio recommend that to reduce the risk of trauma or PTSD, parents of young kids should turn the frightening situation into a game. So, I told my girls that everybody in Israel decided to try a new game, and that every time a siren went off, we had to race to the

stairwell to see who could get there fastest. It worked. They eventually tired of the game, but soon the armed exchanges subsided and we went back to a more familiar routine.

Now, at our dinner table in Sarasota, the girls brought up that summer. My oldest said, “You know that we know now that it was not a game, right?” I told them I did but that it was a good tactic at the time. As they grow, they will continue to learn more from the complicated realities of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, just as the Tree of Life shooting taught them (just two months after moving to the U.S.) that terrorist attacks do happen far outside those borders and that people can be targeted and murdered only because they are Jewish. Even though, as a historian, Jewish professional and mother, I try to draw from my academic training and experience to give my daughters the detailed – and often difficult – answers our children deserve, my adult mind cannot fully grasp it either.

The Oct. 7 massacre forced us all to face the fact that hatred towards Jews is still more prevalent than we wanted to believe.

Now more than ever, we are grateful that Robert and Esther Heller provide sustaining support for the Heller Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), a volunteer-based committee of our Federation that works to ensure that our Jewish community is safe and secure by guiding the federation’s strategies to combat rising antisemitism and promote support for Israel.

Oct. 7 and its aftermath brought an even stronger commitment to our work: organizing solidarity rallies and



marches, keeping the media engaged in the hostage crisis in Israel and the antisemitism crisis on our campuses, explaining the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and current situation, promoting new educational initiatives for our schools and faculty (some of which we will share later in the year), and planning a new speaker series to address challenging topics around recent events.

In addition, our JCRC’s chair and co-chair, David Millstone and Julie Wright Halbert, together with our CEO Shepherd Englander have taken a leading role in a new initiative to establish a Regional Community Relations Councils Coalition. Bringing the JCRCs in our region together allows us to provide support for our work locally and to speak with a strong voice regionally in support of our communities and students.

Originally five local councils, our coalition now includes seven communities across our region (two of which asked to join after learning about our actions since Oct. 7). Member communities now include: The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, The Jewish Federation of Tampa, JCRC of Florida’s Gulf Coast, JCRC of Greater Orlando, the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties, Jewish Federation of Greater Naples and the Jewish Federation of Jacksonville.

In response to the antisemitic incidents on USF’s campus, our Tampa members brought the situation to our group for discussion. Together with our colleagues in Tampa, our local JCRC took a leading role in writing an appeal on behalf of the coalition to university leadership, and university President Rhea Law specifically, calling for action to ensure the safety of Jewish students on campus. We supported a direct appeal to Attorney General Ashley Moody to bring the situation to her attention. Subsequently, Attorney General Moody issued a formal letter to the leadership of USF calling on them to take action to ensure the campus is a safe environment.

There are a lot of hard questions with no simple answers in sight. Feel free to reach out to us as your community resource at lalon@jfedrsrq.org.

Editor’s note: At the time of this writing, we had just learned that Saleh Al Aruri, one of the founders of the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades (Hamas’ military wing), Deputy Head of Hamas Political Bureau, was killed in an explosion in Beirut.

Established 1971

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The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee
Greenspon Campus for Jewish Life
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Sarasota, FL 34232-1959
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Website: jfedrsrq.org

Published Monthly
Volume 54, Number 2
February 2024
48 pages
USPS Permit No. 521

March 2024 Issue Deadlines:

Editorial: January 29, 2024
Advertising: February 5, 2024

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

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OPINIONS printed in *The Jewish News of Sarasota-Manatee* do not necessarily reflect those of The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, its Board of Directors or staff.

SUBMISSIONS to *The Jewish News* are subject to editing for space and content, and may be withheld from publication without prior notice. Approval of submissions for publication in either verbal or written form shall always be considered tentative, and does not imply a guarantee of any kind. Submissions must be sent electronically to jewishnews@jfedrsrq.org.

LETTERS to the editor should not exceed 300 words, must be typed, and include the writer’s name, mailing address and phone number. Letters can be submitted via USPS or email (jewishnews@jfedrsrq.org). Not all letters will be published. Letters may be edited for length and content.

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Finding our way forward in a post-Oct. 7 world

By Shepard Englander, Chief Executive Officer

I can't remember a time when Jews around the world felt as connected as they have since Oct. 7. We shared the same shock and pain. We needed to mourn together, to cry out together, to demand justice together. We have felt the care we have for each other's well-being more strongly than ever.



From that first day, it was clear to me that the Federation had to bring us all together for rallies, unity gatherings and marches. It was so powerful that more than 800 people showed up with broken hearts and gratitude each time. And when we chartered a 737 jet to the historic D.C. March for Israel, we filled 175 seats in two days.

So many wanted to help and generously contributed to meet Israel's urgent needs. Together, we exceeded our community's goal and raised over \$1.5 million for Jewish Federation of North America's (JFNA's) Israel Emergency Fund for lifeline services, trauma relief and economic recovery. With no exaggeration, I am so proud that this fund, which reached \$750 million, has been the largest and most significant funding source for Israel's human needs since the Oct. 7 massacres.

As the months go by, we must refine how we can continue to respond to that worst attack on Jews since the Holocaust. Israel still needs us desperately. But what Israel and the Jewish people need

from us now is different and broader. We know both the war with Hamas and the need to confront antisemitism will stretch into 2024 and beyond. So, our approaches must be sustainable, and they must be accessible to all.

Winning in the court of public opinion is as critical

to Israel's long-term survival and success as the military front against Hamas. In some areas, public opinion has begun to turn against Israel, as many media and social media sources seem to have forgotten what happened on Oct. 7.

Locally, antisemitism has spread and worsened, especially in schools and on college campuses. We must fight back against all antisemitism, including variants that hide antisemitism in pro-Palestinian messages and media, to build sustainable ways for all of us to help combat anti-Israel bias and antisemitism that match your time and interests. So, you can look to us to:

- Offer updated tips and tools to advocate for Israel and combat antisemitism in our *Jewish News*, email blasts and on our Israel Resources web page (please visit jfedsrq.org/israel).

- Integrate updates on Israel and antisemitism into our upcoming schedule of authors, speakers and cultural leaders, including our "People of the Book" author series and "Mort Skirboll Jewish Film Festival."

- Coordinate with other Jewish organizations and congregations to convene the most pressing conversations.

- Beginning in March, convene gatherings on the Jewish Federation's new Larry Greenspon Campus for Jewish Life. More than ever, we need a special and safe space to gather together, support each other and welcome friends

inside and outside the Jewish community.

Oct. 7 taught us two important lessons. First, that what affects Israel, and the Jewish world, affects each of us deeply. Second, we care about each other even more than we know. Let's not forget these lessons as we find personal and sustainable ways to support Israel and each other. 

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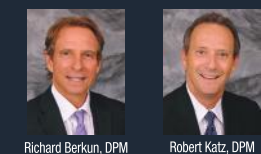
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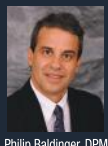
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Never forgetting

Tributes and testimonies expressed through art

By Bette Zaret, Holocaust Education Initiative, and Dr. Janet Hiller, Chair of Generations After

On Dec. 13, 2023, members of Generations After (a group of 2nd- and 3rd-generation Holocaust Survivors) met at Creative Liberties in Sarasota for an art workshop under the inspirational guidance of talented artist and educator Judy Levine, assisted by collage artist Donna Bergman.

Participants brought valued photos and special keepsakes to help create, design and decorate individualized and personal memory boxes. In a few hours, these original works were ready to take home, enhance and display. Here are comments by some of the participants:

Judy Eisen: "Making a memory box... will serve as a keepsake, a reminder of my family's history before, during and after the Holocaust. I will continue to add pieces from the past, plus items that represent my family's life in the U.S. It will hold sentimental value, preserving the special memories associated with each item. A special thank you to Judy Levine for guiding us through this symbolic experience."

Agnes Schipper, author of "Sabine's Odyssey" says, "I created two memory boxes. The smaller box holds copies of my mother's real and false IDs she used during the German occupation of the Netherlands. It holds childhood photos of her and her brother, Andreas, who



Holocaust survivor Helga Melmed and her daughter, Lisa Bean, share experiences from Generation to Generation

perished in Mauthausen concentration camp, and of my father, a member of the Dutch Resistance who helped save my mother and grandparents. This box is labeled "Travel" to reflect their many moves necessary to hide and survive.

My second box, labeled "Time," holds copies of photos of my German great-grandparents and parents, plus memorabilia including ivory napkin rings engraved with the initials of my great grandmother. I hope my

grandchildren will ask questions about what they find in the boxes so I can tell them about their ancestors."

Sheree Salesin says, "Throughout the process of collecting materials and decorating the boxes, we shared stories of our families' hope, strength and survival. This enhanced our creative process and the connection we feel to each other."

Another participant, Janet Hiller, remarks, "Thank you to Bette Zaret and the Federation for giving us the opportunity to highlight our family memories

through art. I created my memory box to honor the love my parents had for each other and our family, and to show how the Holocaust was a traumatic part of their history but did not destroy their faith and hope. On the outside is their only wedding picture, taken in the Bergen Belsen DP Camp, with a photo of them holding me a year later in the same DP camp. There is also a photo of them celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

"On the inside is the only photo of my mother's family in her shtetl. Only my mother and one brother survived. Included are copies of their handwritten notes about the concentration camps they were in and their forced labor, and a photo of my father praying in his prayer shawl and my mother signing the Book of Remembrance for the initiation of the United States Holocaust Museum. I will share this box with my children and grandchildren, so they can honor their legacy of endurance and hope for our family and the Jewish people."

Generations After feedback

"I was really inspired by the sentiment that the stories of the survivors rely on our generation to be passed on, and I wanted to symbolize that in my artwork. I used acrylic paint on cardboard, with a red string to symbolize the stories of the survivors. Each figure represents a new generation carrying on the truth of the victims, ensuring that the millions of lives lost were carried with them.

Thank you for your time! And thank you so much for giving VPA students a chance to hear from the survivors and to be educated about the truth."

~ Zoey Zagst, grade 11,
Booker High School

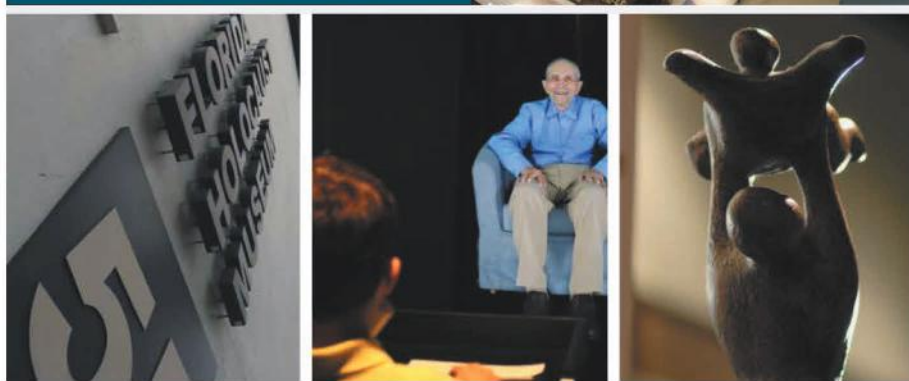


The Generations After group is made up of children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors who work with The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee to help educate the community about the evil of antisemitism through their family histories.

If you are a 2nd- or 3rd-generation Holocaust survivor and would like to participate in future programs, contact Bette Zaret at bzaret@jfedrsq.org.

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Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

What it means to be Jewish brought to new light on Israel trip

By Olivia Spiegel, BMYA participant

Some may say Disney is the most magical place on Earth, but in my eyes, it is Israel. A country full of vibrance, rich in culture and a heritage spanning thousands of years. In short, my trip to Israel was unforgettable. Traveling can teach one so much about themselves and the world, and this trip broadened my perspective on what it truly means to be Jewish.

Living in Florida, I find my peers are generally ignorant about any topics related to Judaism or Israel. Because of this, I feel like a minority among the masses, an outsider. But the moment I saw Tel Aviv from the plane window, I began feeling something very different.

It felt like home! Walking throughout Israel, I could proudly hold my head high, knowing I was Jewish, and for the Israelis I saw walking next to me, I knew they were proud to be Jewish as well. During our time in this small country, I had many remarkable experiences that will have a lasting effect on my view of what it means to be Jewish.

Out of everything that we did on the trip, one place really stood out: Yad Vashem. Before going, I had only heard stories of a place that is dedicated to the memory of Jewish people during the Holocaust, but I never realized how much of an impact it would

continued on next page



Olivia (bottom, second from right) at Schoenbaum Regional Library in Tel Mond



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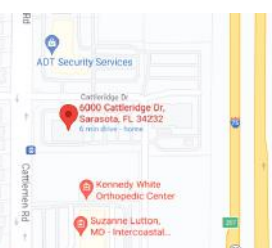
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Olivia with trip leader Jessi Sheslow

have on me. I remember the tears streaming down my face while walking through the various hallways and looking at pictures of the men, women and children who were executed just because they were Jewish. It was in that moment that I realized the importance of my Jewish heritage and the responsibility we carry to ensure this never happens again.

The Yad Vashem tour happened to occur at the beginning of the trip, and it really set the tone for the rest of my time in Israel. I understood how much was sacrificed, how much we lost and how far the modern state of Israel has developed in such a short time.

Walking through Masada, staying in a Bedouin tent and floating in the Dead Sea were all fascinating excursions. At Masada, I was able to see

just how much history Israel holds. We traveled all over the country, from cities and coastal towns to farmlands and deserts, taking in all of the breathtaking sights.

Another of my favorite experiences was going to the Shook in Jerusalem. I learned how to bargain with Israeli vendors and how to maneuver safely through the large crowds of people. I spent the whole time taking in the smells of the street food and marveling at the bright colors of different pieces of jewelry and clothing.

Additionally, located in the heart of Jerusalem's Old City, the Western Wall was a sight I will never forget. When I first saw the Wall, I was taken aback by the sheer size of it, considering it was built over 2,000 years ago, but I was even more intrigued when we toured the tunnels beneath it. That same night, we were able to spend Shabbat at the Wall and feel the energy of the hundreds of people who came to pray.

Going to Israel was an incredible opportunity and is something that I will never take for granted. Having other Jewish teens with me, taking in the same sights together, allowed this trip to be even more special. I am so grateful to have been selected for this opportunity and it has shown me the importance of Israel's role in the world and to the Jewish people. It also highlighted my role in promoting tolerance for other cultures and the role I can play in fighting the spread of antisemitism.

Because of this amazing experience, I plan to continue to learn about Israel and Jewish culture and, potentially, visit again during my college years. 🌍

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Welcome Shlicha Shahar to Federation

By Kim Adler, Chief Operating Officer

The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee is proud to welcome Shahar Zigner as its new Israeli *shlich*a (emissary). Zigner is 27 years old and a resident of Rehovot, Israel. She majored in music and education at the Hebrew University and the Music Academy in Jerusalem. Our Federation has not had a *shlich*a since before the pandemic, and we are thrilled to bring this program back to our community!

Prior to coming to Sarasota, Zigner spent her last summer leading Israeli delegations for a Jewish summer camp in the U.K. and has years of experience in working with kids and teenagers.

During her tenure here in Sarasota-Manatee, Zigner will primarily be working with youth and teens in the community and will serve as the



Shahar Zigner

Assistant Camp Director for Camp Yonnie this summer. Her overall goal will be to share her Israeli experiences with our community and to assist with infusing Israeli culture into our Federation's robust program calendar. Our Camp Yonnie campers will benefit from Zigner's experiences in summer camps in both the U.K. and Camp Ramah in Wisconsin.

In addition to her work in our community, she also serves as the coordinator of the Garin Tzabar program of *aliyah* for young adults. Zigner is new in town and would love to get to know you personally for a coffee date or lunch! You may reach her via email at szigner@jfedrsq.org or by phone at 941-299-9575. 🌍

Larry Greenspon: from passion into philanthropy

By Hermione E. Gilpin, Chief Development Officer

More than five years ago, our Federation's leadership began envisioning a bold future for the Jewish community in our region. The results of our 2019 Brandeis demographic study confirmed their instincts: Our Jewish population was growing fast and looking for ways to connect with their culture and each other outside of traditional temple membership. Discussions that had already begun quickly evolved into conversations around how this Federation could not only meet the current needs of the region but, more importantly, anticipate and prepare for a vibrant future for the Jewish community. Leadership imagined a future – and a place – where community members could gather, learn and be inspired.

Their bold plan for a campus struck a chord across generations and interests and quickly began to engage and attract community members. As the idea began to take hold with key leaders, Larry Greenspon was the one who boldly stepped forward to make the initial leadership gift needed to create the Larry Greenspon Campus for Jewish Life.

"I saw the need for the Federation to enhance its facilities as well as its programs to respond to the needs of our growing community. In light of the terrorist attacks in Israel on Oct. 7, it has become even more crucial that our community has dedicated spaces and a campus to gather and celebrate our shared Jewish identity and welcome people of all backgrounds and faiths."

Greenspon, a former Midwesterner, is an influential figure in Sarasota-Manatee as well as in Israel where he sponsors Israel Tennis Centers among other organizations. Having chaired the Federation's Israel @ 70 celebration, serving as honorary chair for Israel @ 75 (and sharing his birth date and year with Israel), Greenspon's heart is truly in this campus. He is particularly enthusiastic when it comes to opportunities for youth to engage and is passionate about the planned Greenspon Sports Complex.

"I've been fortunate to compete in the Maccabi Games in Israel and am a supporter of the Israel Tennis and Education Centers. Sports are an incredible way to help young people learn skills but also help unite players in common purpose. When the Federation approached me about this project, I knew sports had to be incorporated to encourage inclusivity and create a dynamic hub for families and individuals," says Greenspon.

The impact of his gift will be magnified in years to come as we not only enjoy seeing the campus come to life over the next six months but as we look toward new programs, events and community gatherings in upcoming years.

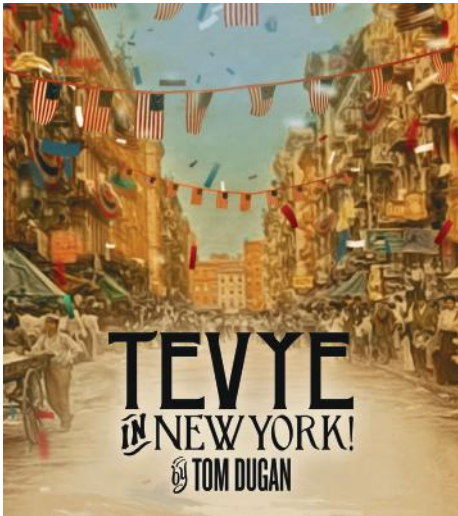
Thanks to Greenspon and many others who shared our vision, the future is now. This Feb. 25, after years of planning, the Greenspon Campus for Jewish Life becomes reality as we welcome our community to The Ora for a community celebration of Federation's 65th anniversary. We hope to see you there! 🌍

From Anatevka to the Lower East Side: “Tevye in New York!”

By Federation Staff

Our Federation team is excited to bring Tom Dugan to Sarasota for a one-night-only special performance of “Tevye in New York!” From the creator of the award-winning play “Wiesenthal,” Dugan’s newest one-man show reimagines the lives of Sholem Aleichem’s beloved characters immortalized in “Fiddler on the Roof.” Get reacquainted with Tevye and his daughters as they make their way across the Atlantic Ocean, through Ellis Island, past “the big green lady” and into the gritty melting pot of 1914’s Lower East Side.

Now five years after he is forced to flee Anatevka with his family, Tevye is a proud American citizen who continues to regale his audience (which, as always, includes both us and G-d) with his thoughts on high-tech advances like automobiles, electricity and the telephone. Dugan skillfully addresses the plight of immigrants and the beginnings of social change while weaving in transformative historical events like the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. Amid this fast changing and precarious landscape, Tevye continues his struggle to hold onto tradition and learn what it means to be an American Jew.



Filled with moments of laughter, heartbreak and joy, “Tevye in New York!” is a show that the *Los Angeles Times* calls “A magical fable ... movingly rendered” and one you will not want to miss!

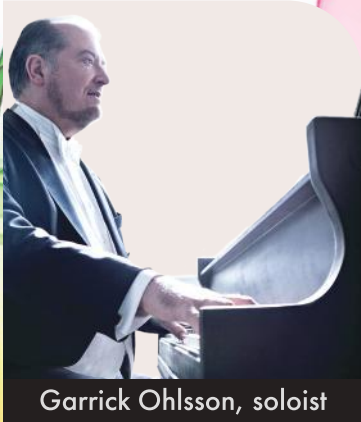
Join us for this award-winning production Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. at The Ora, our premier event center on the Federation campus. General admission is \$36 and premier seating is available for \$54. To purchase tickets, visit JFEDSRQ.org/TEVYE. For more information, contact Lauren Cohen at 941-706-0027 or LCohen@jfedsrq.org. 

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The Catskills: A nostalgic return to the beating heart of the Borscht Belt

By Carol Dierksen, Event Coordinator

A few weeks ago, I was looking through boxes of memorabilia at my parents' home and came across a 78-rpm record in a sleeve from Grossinger's Resort dated 1941. The recordings turned out to be my then 5-year-old mother and 7-year-old aunt singing their own renditions of "G-d Bless America" and "Hurrah for the Turkey," respectively.

Resorts such as Grossinger's, Kutch-er's and the Concord in the Catskill Mountains became popular Jewish destinations starting in the 1920s. The area became known as the "Borscht Belt" due to the influx of Eastern European Jewish families. Just 100 miles

frequent visitors and were known to hone new acts or train for big sports events in the area. Comedians Joan Rivers, Jackie Mason and later Jerry Seinfeld are among those who got their start performing in Catskills resorts.

With the advent of air conditioning as well as lower airfares and easier access to other parts of the world, the Borscht Belt declined through the '70s, '80s and '90s. Sadly, most of the formerly vibrant resorts have now been demolished or sit in sad disrepair.

My family, like many other Jewish immigrant families, has a long history of vacationing in the Catskills. Starting with those recordings from my mom and grandparents' visits in the '40s to my grandfather's 20 or more annual business retreats to The Nevele in the '70s and '80s to family vacations in the '60s at the Homowack Lodge and the '90s at The Nevele, the region holds a special place in my family history.

Relive your own great memories of an era long past and join the Jewish Federation on Feb. 18 at Temple Emanu El for "The Catskills," a feature-length documentary and the third film leading up to our popular Mort Skirboll Jewish Film Festival running from March 3-7 at The Ora, the brand-new premier event venue on Federation's campus. A nosh of traditional Catskills foods will precede the film. Afterward, producer/director Lex Gillespie will host a Q&A. Tickets are \$50.

For more information and tickets, go to www.jfedsrq.org/jff or contact Carol Dierksen at cdierksen@jfedsrq.org or 941-263-4974.



north of New York City, it was an easily accessible and affordable way to escape hot summers, small apartments, crowded cities and the threat of diseases such as polio and smallpox.

The 1950s and '60s were the hey-day for the Catskills. Amid rising antisemitism, Jews felt welcomed by the resorts and bungalow colonies, many of which even offered kosher dining. Famous people from the worlds of theater, sports and comedy were

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Temple Sinai announces 16th annual Sarasota Jewish Food Festival

By Gail Glickman

Temple Sinai will host its 16th annual Sarasota Jewish Food Festival where thousands will enjoy a tantalizing day of traditional homemade Jewish delicacies. This indoor, free event for the whole community will be held on Sunday, Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Temple Sinai, 4631 South Lockwood Ridge Road (enter only from Proctor Road), Sarasota.

Temple Sinai members, “chefs and bakers,” will prepare a wide range of delicious Jewish food. The menu features hard-to-resist corned beef and pastrami from Carnegie Deli, bagels and cream cheese, kugel, blintzes, knishes, matzo ball soup and stuffed cabbage, to name a few. Delicious home-baked goods include cakes, pies, pastries and cookies. The event is free and open to the community. Tickets are sold for attendees to purchase the food.

In addition, there will be craft and jewelry vendors, unique treasures and an art sale. Donations are greatly appreciated and may be delivered to the Temple Sinai office.



Servers extraordinaire Patty Schreiber, Stan Liner, Stephen Swerdlow, Pearl Perlinski & Patty Glah



Fredda Chalfin & Betty Cahall serving kugel



Roberta Gerlach delighted with delicious desserts

The SunCoast Blood Bank Blood Mobile will be at Temple Sinai from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and donors will receive free tickets for food for the Food Festival. A portion of blood collected will be sent to Magen David Adom in Israel. Please come to support our community and the urgent needs in the state of Israel. Registration is on the SunCoast Blood Bank or Temple Sinai websites.

Chair Patty Glah says, “Temple Sinai has sponsored the Sarasota Jewish Food Festival for 16 years. It’s a yearly

tradition in our community that brings young and old together to enjoy delicious Jewish food made by members of our synagogue. We look forward to the whole Sarasota-Manatee community joining us!”

This spectacular event is in partnership with Aravilla and the SunCoast

Blood Bank. All attendees are encouraged to bring nonperishable items to donate to All Faith’s Food Bank. All leftover food, books and other small treasures will be donated to those in need. For more details, contact Patty Glah at pmglah@gmail.com.

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Sarasota gets a taste of Jewish New York

By Ethan Wolfson, Marketing Coordinator

As Jonathan Mitchell, owner of The Original Wolfie's Deli & Rascal House, answers my call, the bustle of a busy New York-style deli comes through the phone with all the energy and excitement of the Big Apple. In the background, the cast at Wolfie's in Sarasota is warming up for a busy day in the life of this revival of a beloved Florida institution. Inspired by the glitz and pace of New York City, this iconic deli is bringing the Broadway flair of the famed delicatessen to a new home — sunny Sarasota-Manatee.

First opened in 1947 in Miami Beach, The Original Wolfie's Delicatessen & Rascal House quickly became every vacationer's favorite spot for their fix of fresh-sliced deli meats and delicacies. Everyone from celebrities to the working class flocked to Wolfie's to experience a taste of New York in Miami. Now, under Mitchell's direction, Wolfie's is making its Sarasota debut with recipes from the original restaurant. As the Jewish saying goes "*l'dor, v'dor*," "from generation to generation!"

While Mitchell grew up in Los Angeles, he is no stranger to humble New York-style deli fare, and he is passionate about it. Aside from ownership of both Wolfie's Original and Wolfie Cohen's Rascal House, Pumpernik's and Epicure Market in Miami,



Jonathan Mitchell affixes mezuzah to Wolfie's entrance as CEO Shepard Englander looks on.

Mitchell loves to stay active, and being at Wolfie's every day lets him interact with people, see their smiles and hear stories about their own connections to the food. The Wolfie's team wants every person who visits their restaurants to feel special. "As you walk in, you're welcomed to applause, and you realize you are the star!" The customer takes center stage, but the food shares the spotlight.

This revival stays true to its roots with recipes coming straight from the pages of *The Original Wolfie's & Rascal House* cookbooks and featuring menu items from Miami's Pumpernik's and Epicure Market, and Southern California's Jerry's Famous Deli. You can look forward to experiencing your traditional favorites, including schnitzel, knish, chopped liver, matzoh ball soup, babka, brisket and sandwiches packed full of corned beef, pastrami (or both!), and more.

For late night, stop by the Rascal House, an 'after-theater' bar opening at



and Jerry's Famous Deli in Los Angeles, this style of cuisine is in his blood. His grandmas each had their own signature soup, saving the family the trouble of picking sides. "One had the best chicken soup; one had the best borscht," Mitchell recalled. And every Sunday, his family gathered to order in from a local deli. Just like Mitchell fondly recalls his family connecting over deli cuisine, he knows this food "will bring back family memories for people."

5 p.m. and serving up lighter fare from sliders to latkes; desserts; and signature cocktails, wine and drinks.

Mitchell and the entire Wolfie's team are excited to bring this deli institution to Sarasota, where he and his wife, Michelle, have lived for nearly nine years. "We love this community, and we aren't going anywhere!"

You can visit Wolfie's seven days a week at 1420 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota. 

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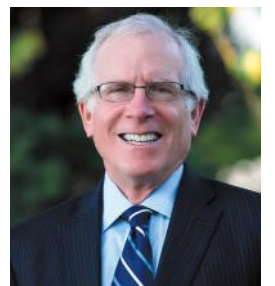
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Sarasota delegation shares sorrow and joy at the Global Conference for Israel

Over 2,500 supporters of Israel shared tears of sorrow and joy as they gathered in Denver for Jewish National Fund-USA's Global Conference for Israel.

Emotions ran high as supporters embraced the dozens of Israelis in attendance who have been working around the clock with Jewish National Fund-USA to address the immediate needs of those affected by the Oct. 7 attack while also planning for the region's future.

Esther Rose, Co-President of the Sarasota Board of Directors, shared,

"I was extremely gratified to be surrounded by over 2,500 delegates from across the U.S. who love and are committed to Israel and its needs. Our work is more important now than ever before. The Sarasota community is ready to continue our efforts and especially to join in reconstruction in Israel's south after Oct. 7."

Fellow Sarasota Board of Directors Co-President Peter Kretzmer agreed, "I was grateful for the opportunity to hear diverse speakers share their views on Israel and the current crisis. The camaraderie of this intense but worthwhile



weekend together was noteworthy and the variety of sessions were great learning experiences. We all pray that next year's meeting will take place against a more positive backdrop."

Harnessing the momentum generated by the conference's record attendance, Jewish National Fund-USA announced plans to rebuild Israel's battered south through a cross-communal strategy called "Build Together."

The 2024 Global Conference for Israel will occur Nov. 14-17 in Dallas, Texas. Registration is open at jnf.org/globaldallas.

Temple Emanu-El welcomes Kaplan Scholar-in-Residence Deborah Dash Moore, Ph.D.

By Rabbi Elaine Rose Glickman

Temple Emanu-El proudly invites the community to learn from Kaplan Scholar-in-Residence Deborah Dash Moore, Ph.D. on Friday evening, Feb. 23 and Saturday morning, Feb. 24. The Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor of History and Professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, Dash Moore is an expert on American Jewish history, 20th-century urbanization and documentary photography. She serves as editor-in-chief of the 10-volume Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization and is the award-winning author of many books and publications. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University and has taught at Vassar



Deborah Dash Moore, Ph.D. will serve as this year's Kaplan Scholar-in-Residence at Temple Emanu-El.

College, the University of Pennsylvania and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

"The committee decided to build on last year's topic, which focused on the role of Yiddish in the lives of early Jewish immigrants as well as the scholars of Jewish ghettos in Eastern Europe," explained Scholar-in-Residence Committee co-chair Ellen Klein. "This year's scholar will share the development of American Judaism in more recent times."

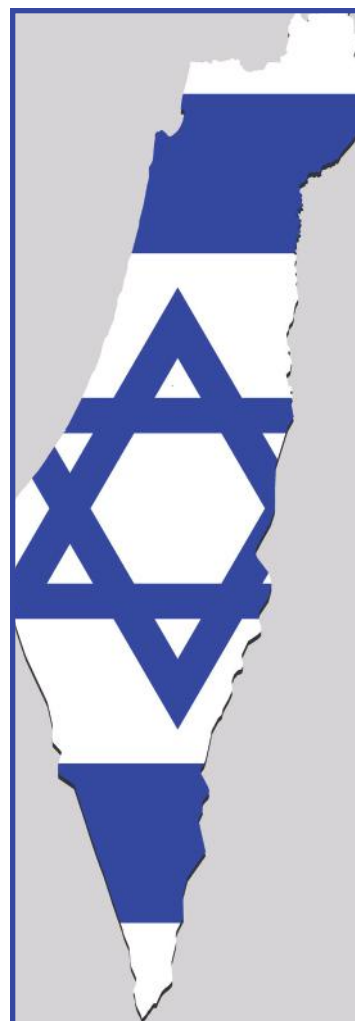
"This is a very personal story for many of us with families that started in the large urban centers up north," added Scholar-in-Residence Committee

co-chair Wendy Wicks. "It explains the migration across this vast country."

Dash Moore will speak during Shabbat services on Friday, Feb. 23 at 7:15 p.m. addressing "GI Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation." This fascinating, and timely, presentation will chart the lives of 15 young Jewish men as they faced military service and tried to make sense of its demands, simultaneously wrestling

with what it meant to be an American and a Jew. She will speak again on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 10:30 a.m., addressing the topic, "From Ghetto to Suburbs: Transforming Jewish Life."

The Scholar-in-Residence weekend is made possible by generous support from Arny and Dee Kaplan. For more information or to register, please visit www.sarasotatemple.org.



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FEBRUARY 11 1:30 - 4 PM
PJ Library: Celebrating Tu BiShvat with a glimpse into Camp Yonnie life
Urfer Family Park 4012 Honore Ave.

Tu BiShvat story time, meet the staff of Camp Yonnie, crafting, snacks, activities and more!



FEBRUARY 18 4:30 - 7:30 PM
The Catskills

Temple Emanu-El 151 McIntosh Rd.
Mort Skirboll Jewish Film Festival feature film screening.
Reception prior and Q&A to follow.



FEBRUARY 25 7 - 9:30 PM
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FEBRUARY 29 2 - 3:30 PM
Wiesenthal, Tom Dugan

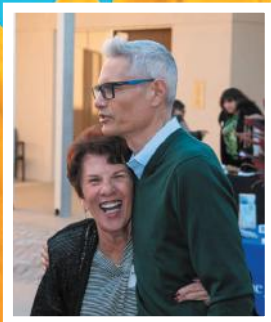
Temple Beth Sholom 1050 S. Tuttle Ave.
Tom Dugan joins our lecture series to discuss this extraordinary Holocaust survivor and the legacy he left behind.

Some of our favorite mo



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ments from 2023 Events



MAR



MARCH 3-7
(Showtimes vary)
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Jewish Film Festival
The Ora
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MARCH 8
2 - 4 PM
The Skincare Hoax,
Fayne Frey
Lakewood Ranch Country Club
7650 Legacy Blvd.

MARCH 19
7 - 9 PM
Muppets in Moscow,
Natasha Lance Rogoff
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MARCH 12 4 - 6 PM
Just Schmoozing!
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APR



APRIL 9 4 - 6 PM
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APRIL 14 1:30 - 4 PM
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Unity dinner raises nearly \$100,000 for Leket Israel

By Rabbi Elaine Rose Glickman | This program was sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

On Dec. 6, Temple Emanu-El was honored to host a Unity Dinner that raised nearly \$100,000 for Leket Israel’s emergency relief campaign for displaced Israelis. The dinner was the most recent event in a long partnership between Leket — Israel’s national food bank, whose name means “gleaning” in Hebrew — and Temple Emanu-El. Senior Rabbi Brenner Glickman serves on the national board of American Friends of Leket, and the organization’s Executive Director Lauren Yoked was the speaker at Temple Emanu-El’s inaugural Israel Shabbat. The Unity Dinner’s generous lead sponsor was the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, one of the first Jewish Federations in the country to support Leket.

Originally conceived as a celebratory party to honor the 20th anniversary of Leket, the event became a solemn fundraising opportunity after Oct. 7.

“From that moment on, we have been wholly consumed with providing emergency humanitarian aid to tens of thousands of Israelis under fire — families living in bomb shelters, evacuees, the elderly, farmers whose land has been destroyed, and many more,” Yoked stated. “This is in addition to the normal work that we do, providing 234,000 Israelis in need with fresh, rescued produce and cooked meals each week.”

The centerpiece of the Unity Dinner was a high-level briefing from



Temple Trustee and Host Committee member Megan Heller and American Friends of Leket Executive Director Lauren Yoked

Leket founder and chairman Joseph Gitler, who had planned to travel to Sarasota for the event but decided to remain in Israel to continue coordinating Leket’s on-the-ground efforts, and a question-and-answer opportunity moderated by Rabbi Glickman.

“The war has significantly impacted all the citizens of Israel, regardless of religion or ethnicity,” Gitler related, “both on an emotional level and in their day-to-day lives. Farmers are unable to harvest their crops, causing a produce shortage and rising prices in the supermarkets. It has become increasingly difficult for families to purchase fresh food and, unfortunately, the need will only continue to grow.”

“It is Leket’s obligation to leverage our years of experience in the field, our logistical knowledge, and



Temple members and Leket supporters Sybil & Irv Broh and Barbara & Laurance Newman



Senior Rabbi and American Friends of Leket board member Brenner Glickman held a conversation via Zoom with Leket founder and chairman Joseph Gitler

our resources to aid as many people as we can,” he added. “Countless people across the nation have suffered the loss of their loved ones, homes and their sense of safety, and Leket Israel is committed to guaranteeing that no one will experience hunger during this critical time.”

Funds raised at the Unity Dinner have enabled tens of thousands of pounds of fresh produce, cooked meals, essentials for babies and toddlers, direct aid, and much more to reach families, the elderly, evacuees and farmers across the country. Additional funds are sought to expand Leket’s operations. Each \$180, Yoked noted, provides cooked meals for 30 families in need.

We are proud of Temple Emanu-El’s deep support of the Unity

Dinner and of Leket Israel. Speaking on behalf of the Federation was Temple member Tommy Bernstein, and among the Host Committee were Rabbis Elaine and Brenner Glickman, Trustee Megan and Dr. Adam Heller, and NEFESH benefactors Barbara and Laurance Newman. Many other Temple members were in attendance, and the Junior Sisterhood also purchased a table.

Leket Israel was one of the first charities highlighted by Project Amichai’s Tzedakah Initiative, and following the Unity Dinner, Amichai’s Bracelet-Making Initiative designated Leket Israel as its next beneficiary.

For more information, please visit www.leket.org/en.

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Sarasota Jewish
Chorale prepares for
“Beyond Broadway”

Save the date

By Nancy B. Finn

The Sarasota Jewish Chorale (SJC) will perform a unique concert of Broadway and film tunes for its annual spring performance to be held April 7, 4-6 p.m. at Temple Beth Shalom on Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota. The Chorale has built a reputation for musical excellence and performs throughout the region at synagogues, retirement homes, schools, churches and for the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. They have also performed at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice for its Holocaust service and are available for other collaborations.

SJC Artistic Director Sharon Greene describes the upcoming program: “My vision for Beyond Broadway, Music of Stage and Film,” she says, “is to bring people’s attention to the amazing body of well-known Jewish music written by Jewish composers for both Broadway and film. So many of the pieces we will perform are poignant and relevant to all that is happening around us. Songs such as “Bring Him Home” and “Do you Hear the

People Sing” from “Les Misérables” and “When you Believe” from “Prince of Egypt” are all written by composers seeking to find a peaceful and better world,” she said.

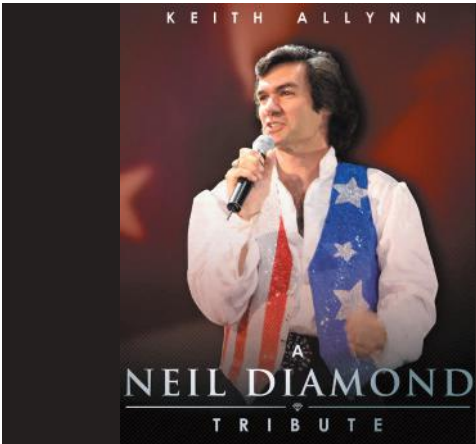
The Sarasota Jewish Chorale is an ensemble of 30 volunteer singers from the Sarasota-Manatee area who perform a diverse repertoire of Jewish liturgy, old Chassidic melodies, modern Jewish composers and compositions from American as well as many other world cultures. The Chorale was organized in 1969 by a group of individuals led by Arlene Stolnitz and Priscilla Shore of Venice, Florida, for individuals from all religions and affiliations. Joel Kreiss was the first artistic director. They rehearse weekly on Thursday evenings at Temple Emanuel in Sarasota.

Individuals who are interested in singing with SJC should contact Ronnie Riceberg, president, or Sharon Greene, artistic director. For more information go to the website, www.sarasotajewishchorale.org.

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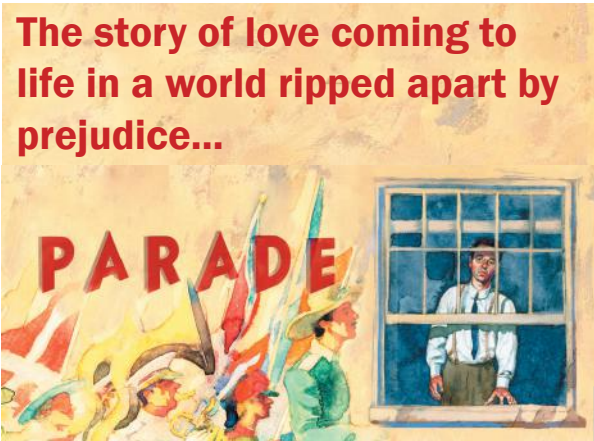
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February 15-17



Opens February 29



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March 12 - 2 Shows



March 24 - 2 Shows



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Tales of two cities: From Detroit to Sarasota-Manatee

By Kim Sheintal

Welcome to the second in a series of articles addressing Jewish life and experiences here in Sarasota-Manatee and comparing it to memories from 'home.'

For this article, I captured the memories of Howard Finkel, Jim Haberman and Pam Gordon, all current Sarasota-Manatee residents, who spent their early years in Detroit with their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and many cousins nearby. Sadly, few Jewish residents in Sarasota-Manatee can say that they grew up here surrounded by lots of extended family members.

Howard Finkel shares, "I was born in Detroit in 1947 and lived in the Metro Detroit area until around 1980. I have lived in Sarasota for the last 20 years.

In the 1950s and '60s, the Jewish population of Detroit was around 80,000. My family lived in what was considered the Jewish area of the city, the northwest side.

In both my elementary and high schools, the Jewish students were the majority. During the High Holidays, although the public schools were in session, the schools I attended were virtually empty. At the end of the school day, there were several school buses lined up outside my elementary school to take many Jewish students to 'Hebrew school,' which we attended after school.

At that time, there were about 25 synagogues and temples in Detroit.

My family were members of Shaarey Zedek, a conservative shul. There were many Jewish delicatessens and other Jewish businesses in Detroit. My parents kept a kosher home, my mother could walk to a kosher butcher for meat and poultry, and it was only a short drive to a kosher bakery. My family has remained in the Detroit area, and I return there for many holiday and family celebrations."

Jim Haberman speaks warmly of his upbringing, "My paternal grandmother owned the Family Restaurant and Grill, a kosher-style restaurant on Dexter Avenue in the old inner-city Jewish area. She was a fantastic cook, and her specialties included homemade gefilte fish, braised brisket and sweet and sour stuffed cabbage. My favorite meals were her Sunday morning brunches with fresh bagels and onion rolls from the Star Bakery on 7 Mile Road; lox, sable and white fish from the Dexter-Davison market; scrambled eggs and onions; and babka and rugelach.

My maternal grandmother operated a produce stand and, after retiring, maintained a mini-farm in her northwest-side back yard. She raised cucumbers and dill, which became homemade pickles; cherries and raspberries, which became homemade jelly; and lots of green vegetables. There was a Jewish deli near 7 Mile Road and Greenfield Avenue that she

and I would walk to and order delicious, corned beef sandwiches.

In those days, nearly all my mom's 31 first cousins (my dad had 22) lived in Detroit, and on most Sundays, there'd be a huge family potluck dinner at someone's home. We held our family life cycle events at the Philip Handler B'nai Brith Lodge on 7 Mile Road, named after my mom's brother."

Pam Gordon tells me, "I am a 5th-generation Detroiter, the 3rd generation born in Detroit. My family moved there in 1872. I grew up at Temple Beth El, which was founded in 1850. When my daughters went to preschool there, outside of their classrooms were group photos of my father's, my brother's and my confirmations. I had grown up with several of my daughters' classmates' parents. My parents grew up with several of my friends' parents. Most of us went to the same high school.

The main difference between the communities isn't just the size. The

Detroit community was 90,000+ strong. It's that 80,000 mostly lived in two suburbs. The other 10,000 were Orthodox living in another one. This was post-1967 riots. The Jewish community fled Detroit for the northwest suburbs. Even before, the Jewish community lived mostly in the same neighborhoods. Leaving for High Holiday services, the neighbors would be shouting "L Shana Tova" and waving. You can also buy Chanukah candles or matzo meal in any grocery store or even in a Chaldean-owned mini mart.

One of my closest friends here, Debbie Silver Heller, and I lived a half mile apart for almost 15 years. We had even attended the same bar mitzvahs but met in Sarasota. Like most Jewish Detroiters, we know the same people and frequented the same places."

Are you a snowbird or a full-time 'transplant' from another home state? Are you willing to contribute your thoughts to our limited series? If so, please email ebiddle@jfsdsrq.org.

Jewish hospice support volunteer training

The next Jewish hospice support volunteer training for all Tidewell volunteers who would like to have additional training as a volunteer for our Jewish patients is set for Monday, Feb. 5 and Wednesday, Feb. 14 at JFSM (580 McIntosh Rd.).

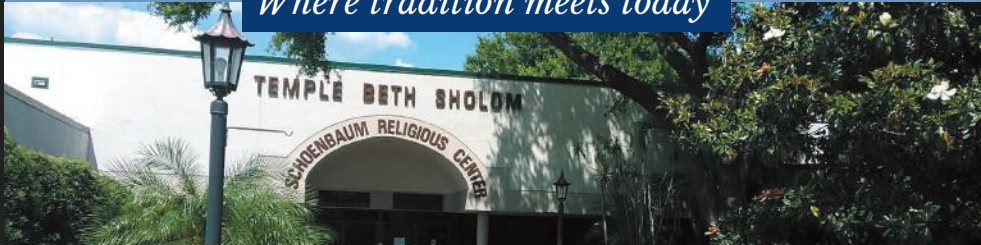
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Perlman Music Program Suncoast's the Punchline Quartet - sponsored by Hannah and William Cohen Trust

March 1-3

TBS' Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Professor Dr. Jack Wertheimer

Saturday, March 9, at 7:15

Recital with Cantorial Student Leo Dworsky (All funds raised will be sent in Support of Israel)

Saturday, March 23, at 8:00 pm

TBS Purim Celebration with a Purim Spiel - Presented by TBS Volunteers, free and open to the public.

Where tradition meets today



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The explosion of antisemitism compels us Jews to own our identity

Aging Jewishly — What our traditions teach us about growing old

By Rabbi Barbara Aiello

It started with pennies but at first my dear friend's teenage daughter didn't take it seriously. After all, the boy who was throwing pennies at her couldn't even get the insult right. "He's calling me a Kite," said the girl. "That's how stupid he is. He doesn't even know what to say!" As a Jewish mother, my friend's reaction was swift. She wanted to march into the principal's office and put a stop to this antisemitic harassment, but her daughter would have none of it. "Don't make a big deal in front of my friends," the daughter pleaded. "Just let it go." Respecting her daughter's wishes, the mom did not confront the school administration, but from time to time her daughter was showered with pennies and taunted as a "Kite."

Rewind the tape to 1957 and I am a little girl of 10 walking home from school with my friends. My cousin, Rebecca, two years younger, holds hands with two friends and skips ahead. They pass a brick wall, and standing on the ledge are several teenage boys. It is a warm April afternoon and near to what in those days was called Holy Week or Easter vacation. The boys on the ledge, each holding a mud pie, begin to pelt Rebecca. They shout, "This is for you, Jew girl. You Jews killed Jesus." Screaming and covered in mud, Rebecca runs back toward me while our girlfriends flee the scene. As I turned to look after them, a neighbor lady watching from her window drew her curtains closed. Frightened and dirty, Rebecca and I stood there alone.

My last name is "Aiello." It is one of the oldest Italian Jewish surnames, but this fact is virtually unknown in North American where Ashkenazi Jews whose ancestors hail from Eastern European countries like Russia and Poland predominate. We Sefardi Jews from Mediterranean countries are a minority within a minority and a surname like Aiello is not readily recognized as Jewish.

In fact, throughout my life people would say to me, "Aiello, that's an Italian name. If you're Italian, you can't be Jewish." As I got older, I realized my Aiello surname was my ticket into the non-Jewish world, especially in the early days of a new job or a new neighborhood. Amazingly, I had a window on antisemitism that few Jews experience firsthand.



Rabbi Barbara Aiello

What I mean is that if your surname was Cohen or Greenblatt or Rosenfeld, for example, some people would be cautious about what they might say about Jews in your presence. After all, those names and dozens of other Ashkenazi surnames are red flags that your coworker or neighbor would recognize as Jewish — a recognition that would often hold an antisemitic attitude at bay. Not so with Aiello. Since the assumption was that I was Italian and could not be Jewish, I was introduced to a world of antisemitism that few Jews ever see.

During one period of my adult life, I supported myself by working in a Call Center. It was a highly competitive job and each day the highest sales were posted. I recall how one colleague said to me, "At least we've got you in the top five, all the others are Jews." I asked what that meant, and the colleague continued, "Jews are all about money. That's all they think of."

To my eternal shame, I kept my ethnicity a secret and as a result, I continued to observe antisemitism up close and personal.

It didn't take long. Sure enough, at the Christmas season, it started again. "It really gets me how Jews don't celebrate Christmas. I guess it's because they don't believe in God." Still tight-lipped about my religion I finally blew my cover when the subject of the Holocaust came up. "When are those Jews going to get over it?" one colleague asked. "They love being victims," another said. It was at that moment that the incident with the boys on the ledge came back to me in full force. With tears in my eyes I said, "You have no idea of what it means to be a Jew."

So, what's the end of the story? Antisemitism in the form of "money-grubbing Christ killers" and worse, is still with us, but ignoring the bullies or remaining silent is no longer an option. The difference is that now, with mass communication and social media, words of hate can turn quickly into vicious hate crimes. Couple that with the fact that slowly but surely we are losing the last eyewitnesses to the greatest hate crime of all.

Children living today represent the last generation that will have the opportunity to meet a Holocaust camp survivor face to face. The remaining

Holocaust generation, the child survivors, will be the ones to share their stories of what it was like to be hidden, lost or abandoned — important experiences indeed — but the stories of survival in Hitler's mechanized death factories will no longer be told by the eye witnesses themselves.

For me it was mud-slinging in the literal sense. For my friend's daughter it was pennies. And what of those who observed these antisemitic incidents? The other students in the hallway who scattered as the pennies hit the floor, the lady in the window who closed her curtains, the friends that ran away and left a little girl crying all alone.

It took my behavior with my colleagues at the Call Center to remind me of what philosopher Edmund Burke said about evil: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men should do nothing." I came face to face with my own fears and, despite the consequences, real or imagined, never again did I conceal my identity. For if I did, although I am a Jew, I would be no better than the students who ran from the hail of pennies or the lady at the window who saw our mud-soaked clothing and drew the blinds.

It is sometimes awkward, but when asked to repeat my last name now, I say,

"It's Aiello, one of the oldest Italian Jewish surnames." And when the response is "But if you're Italian, how can you be Jewish?" I take the time to explain.

Over the years, I've learned that what is required is constant vigilance and if the October massacre tells us anything it is that there's still so much work to be done. Jew hatred that leads to violence against Jews didn't begin with internet postings or with something this or that celebrity or academic said. Antisemitism began eons ago when religious differences were perceived as fair game for bullies and when those who witnessed our debasement, humiliation and suffering simply turned away. "See something. Say nothing" gave our persecutors a free hand to up their game. And for millennia, that's just what they did, until the cruelest alarm was sounded on Oct. 7.

Never Again starts now. 🕊️

For 10 years, Rabbi Barbara Aiello served the Aviva Campus for Senior Life as resident rabbi. Currently as Rabbi Emerita she shares her experiences on *aging Jewishly*. She is also program host of the 17-year *Radio Rabbi* program, airing Fridays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 1 p.m. and streaming live at 1490wwpr.com. Contact her at Rabbi@RabbiBarbara.com.

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Jewish Federation
of Sarasota-Manatee



Exploring the art of Paper-cutting

Some legends trace the origin of Judaic paper-cutting back to the 13th century

By Arlene Stolnitz

Do you remember those paper cutout snowflakes we made when we were children? Those cutouts were much like the popular Polish folk craft of the 1800s called *wycinanki* (vee-see-non-key). Known as folk art in other countries also, (for example, *Papel-Picado* in Mexico, *Scherenschnitte* in Germany), the art of cutting designs into bark, parchment, fabric and paper was widely practiced among other cultures for thousands of years. Polish art works were popular in decorating the houses of non-Jewish peasants and often consisted of older Slavic traditions of protective plaques and symbols. Colorful decorative arts were most important in the cultural life of the Polish people.

The Polish Jewish population, a highly literate people, created their own style of paper-cuts, but theirs were strictly religious in nature. Although there are some legends that trace the origin of Judaic paper-cutting back to the 13th century, very few can be dated with certainty before the latter part of the 18th century. Most items we know of today range from the 19th to the early 20th century. According to one legend I read, there was once a rabbi who wanted to rewrite the Torah but



Arlene Stolnitz

had problems with cold weather. Even the ink froze, and he couldn't continue his work. He came up with a better idea and started cutting out letters for the Torah, and so the first Jewish paper-cut was created!

Jewish paper-cuts were created mainly by the poorest members of the Jewish community, countrypeople, who could not afford expensive religious plaques. Many were created by *soferim* and rabbis as a way of earning additional funds. The paper-cut's function was mainly symbolic. We know paper-cuts were quite common in Ashkenazic Jewish homes, although relatively few survived. It is certainly understandable due to their fragile nature and vulnerability of the material.

Paper-cuts included items such as *mizrach* (directions for prayer) and *shiviti* (meditative prayer), *ketubot* (Jewish marriage contracts), *yahrzeit* lists (lists of deceased family members), *omer* (calendar listings), *megillot* (scrolls of book of Esther) and documents for religious ceremonies and observances. Paper-cuts were usually decorated with traditional symbols found in Judaism and often included animals and birds as well as calligraphic inscriptions in Hebrew. Paper was cheaper to use than wood or metal

and was easy to get, especially after the introduction of cheap wood-pulp paper in the mid-19th century. The simplest of tools could be used... paper, pen and ink, pencil, penknife, watercolors and colored crayons which were readily available. If a mistake was made, it could easily be replaced, just start over! According to Giza Frankel, whose study of Jewish folk art has spanned five decades, paper-cuts were made mainly by men and schoolboys. However, one researcher claims to have spoken to a woman who remembers having learned the art as a girl.

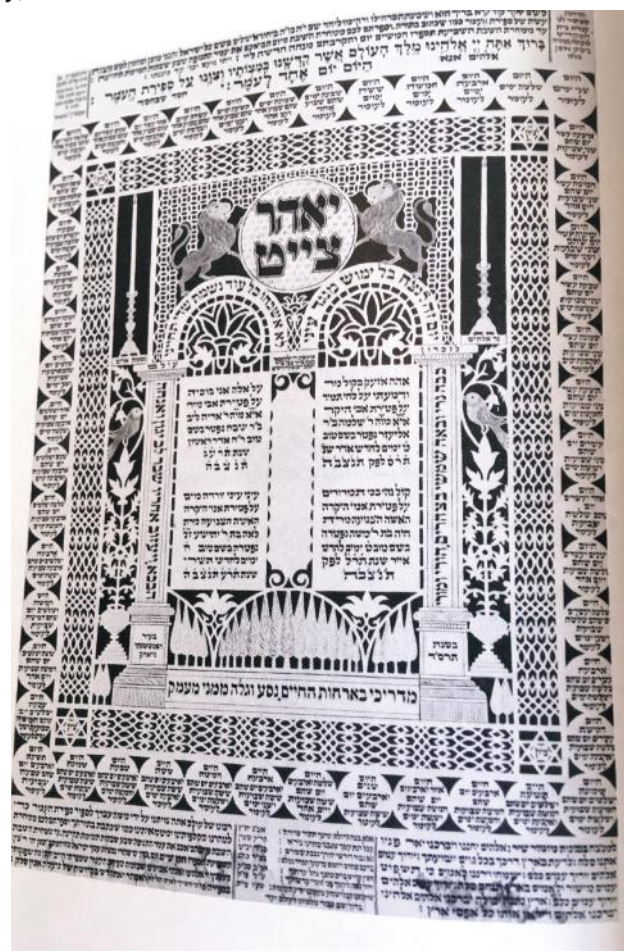


Jewish immigrants arrived in America from Eastern Europe in great numbers in the late 19th century and brought with them the art of paper-cutting. As I have written in prior columns, Baruch Zvi Ring, my husband's grandfather came to Rochester, New York from Vishay, Lithuania, in 1902. His earliest known paper-cut had been created in Europe when Ring was only 10 years old. According to experts, it shows his love of intricate patterns and clarity of composition.

The artist's signature appears in the lozenges (diamonds) attached to the lower roundels (medallions): "My handiwork in which I glory (Isaiah 60:21) From me, Baruch Zvi son of Jacob."

Although much of the traditional art form has been lost, there has been a rebirth of interest in the art form by young, accomplished artists in this country. It is my hope that Americans will come to know something of the arts of the Jewish people as practiced in the past.

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



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K'zohar Ha-Ivrit

Shannah Me-u-be-ret (Leap Year)

By Dr. Rachel Zohar Dulin

Purim is on its way. On Feb. 23, the 14th of *Adar I*, we will celebrate a holiday called *Purim Katan*, Minor Purim. Whereas next month, on March 24, the 14th of *Adar II*, we will celebrate *Purim* again in all its glory. Why two *Purim* celebrations? Why two months called *Adar*? The reason lies in the unique nature of the lunisolar Hebrew calendar.

This year, the year 5724, is a leap year. An extra month is added to the calendar to adjust the discrepancy between the cycles of 354 days rotation of the moon around the Earth and the 365 and a quarter day rotation of the Earth around the sun while also rotating on its own axis every 24 hours. In this adjustment, which originated hundreds of years ago, a second month of *Adar* was added to the calendar to assure that all holidays will be celebrated in their allotted time according to Torah Law. Thus, Passover will always be celebrated in the spring, Sukkot in the fall, etc. Without the adjustments, it will not happen.

Even though the adjustment began during the Second Temple, and maybe even before, tradition attributes the most dramatic calculation to R. Hillel II at about 670 C.E. However, many scholars date our calendar with all its refinements to about the 8th-century C.E. Either way, amazingly, based on years of observations and calculations, without calculators and computers, a cycle of 19 years was formed where seven years in the cycle, the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th and 19th, are the years in which an extra month of *Adar* is added. In Hebrew, a year of 13 months, is called *Shannah Me-u-be-ret*.



Dr. Rachel Dulin

Why is a leap year called *Shannah me-u-be-ret*? The word *shannah* meaning 'year,' is familiar to most of us, since *Rosh Ha-Shannah* is a High Holiday, marking the beginning of a new year in the Hebrew calendar. The term *Me-u-be-ret* is more complex. It is derived from the verb *la-a-vor*, which, depending on context, can mean 'to pass,' 'go,' 'cross,' 'traverse' or 'transfer.' The same root, however, in a different grammatical construction, namely *le-a-ber*, means 'impregnate,' which appears only once in the Bible (Job 21:10) and in post-Biblical Hebrew it means 'to proclaim a leap year.' The Hebrew grammarian, Even Shoshan, surmised the connection between *la-a-vor* 'transfer' and *le-a-ber* 'impregnate' in terms of 'the transference of a seed from male to female.' (New Dictionary Vol. 2 page 951). Thus, in essence, *Shannah Me-u-be-ret* means in Hebrew 'a pregnant year,' for it is carrying an extra month.

It is interesting to note that according to the Talmud, the original story of *Purim* occurred on a *shannah me-u-be-ret* (*Yerushalmi Megilah* 1:5). And, since this year in the counting cycle is a *shannah me-u-be-ret*, we celebrate *Purim* twice, once as a minor celebration, a *Purim Katan* in first *Adar*, and once as a regular full-pledged *Purim* holiday in the second *Adar*. Be it first or second *Adar*, the Talmud highlights a tradition that "when *Adar* enters joy increases" (*Ta'anit* 29a). Thus, we acknowledge *Purim Katan* in a joyful festive meal, but reading of the *Megilah* is not required and no special ritual is performed (*Megilah* 6b). In short, *shannah me-u-be-ret*, 'a pregnant year,' not only adds a month to the calendar but also doubles our joy. 🌍



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Lots of WWII stuff, Einstein BBC style, new movies, more

By Nate Bloom, Stars of David Contributing Columnist

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

"Masters of the Air"

This "major" Apple TV+ limited series (nine episodes) began streaming on Friday, Jan. 26. New episodes are released on successive Fridays.

The series is based on a 2006 non-fiction study entitled "Masters of the Air: America's Bomber Boys Who Fought and the Air War Against Nazi Germany."

Steven Spielberg, 77, is the main producer of "Masters." I guess he has great confidence in "Masters," which cost more than \$250 million to make.

There are over 70 members in the cast list. I presume that the 70+ character names were all real persons and almost all were bomber crew members.

I have read the "Masters" book, and I can tell you that Major Robert "Rosie" Rosenthal is prominent in the book and is a star character in the Apple series. In real life, he was Jewish and was highly respected as a pilot and, later, as the head of bomber units.

My problem: It appears that the producers consciously selected little-known

actors to play the bomber crew members. For example, Nate Mann plays Rosenthal. He's 24, has been in one Broadway play (2020) and has had two small film roles. That's pretty much his whole online biography.

I am pretty sure he is Jewish, but I can't confirm that now. I can say that I think Spielberg wouldn't cast a non-Jew in the "best" Jewish hero role.

Spielberg's own son, **Sawyer Spielberg**, 31, is way down the long credit list. He plays Lt. Roy F. Clayton. Interestingly, Clayton isn't mentioned in the book. Also, not in the book, are two characters with Jewish names: Lt. David Salomon and Aaron Jacobs. They are played by two unknown actors with Jewish names.

As I write this, "Masters" hasn't premiered. Perhaps interviews released in early February will clear things up.

Staying on the WWII theme: Back in 2022, I wrote a column item about WWII vets who became famous after the war and were still alive. I found 14 famous living vets (half were Jewish). Sadly, five Jewish vets died in 2023 and four non-Jewish vets died. We are approaching the end of "The Greatest Generation." By the way, most of "7" saw combat. **Norman Lear** flew 52 missions on a bomber.

Here are the famous Jewish WWII vets who died and the two survivors.

Shecky Greene (comedian, died age 97); **Bernard Kalb** (CBS reporter, died age 100); **Henry Kissinger** (Sec. of State, died age 100); **Newton Minow** (FCC chairman, died age 97); and **Norman Lear** (producer/writer, died age 101). Survivors: **Alan Bergman**, 98, top songwriter, and **Mel Brooks**, 97.

"Einstein and the Bomb"

More WWII: On Feb. 19, Netflix will premiere a new BBC docudrama entitled "Einstein and the Bomb." Its subtitle should be "How do we cash in on the success of 'Oppenheimer,' the film?" Plus, it has those English/BBC "things:" (1) The Brits almost never import an American actor to play an American character, Jewish or not, and (2) non-Jews almost always play Jews in English films and series that have Jewish characters.

Playing Einstein is Aidan McArdle, an almost unknown, not Jewish, UK actor. The rest of the cast are completely unknown Brits. McArdle did play Einstein in a PBS program about Einstein in 2004 — so, he's qualified, I guess. I can tell you that I am 99% sure that the unknowns aren't Jewish, but several will play Jewish characters — like Einstein's wife. Not very sporting!

Capsule plot: Einstein writes a letter to President Roosevelt warning him that the Nazis could make "the bomb."

Einstein has regrets after the war and says that he might not have written the letter if he knew how behind Nazi scientists were in "the bomb race."

"Argylle"

A big budget spy-thriller film, "Argylle" was written by **Jason Fuchs**, 37. He co-wrote "Ice Age: Continental Drift" (2017), a huge moneymaker. His father grew up Hasidic. (Opens Feb. 2)

"It Ends Here"

This film is based on a big-selling novel about Lily, a woman whose father beat her mother and, to her shock, her husband, a doctor, turns out to be a wife-beater, too. Lily's best friend, **Allysa** (played by **Jenny Slate**, 41), is also Lily's husband's sister. (Opens Feb. 9)

Upcoming series

The long actors' strike delayed the fall return of many series. Here are two hit ABC shows that are finally returning: "The Connors" (8 p.m., Feb. 7). Its main cast includes two Jews: **Sara Gilbert**, 48, and **Michael Fishman**, 42, and "The Good Doctor" (10 p.m., Feb. 20) has two Jewish main cast members: **Richard Schiff**, 68, and **Noah Galvin**, 27. 🌍

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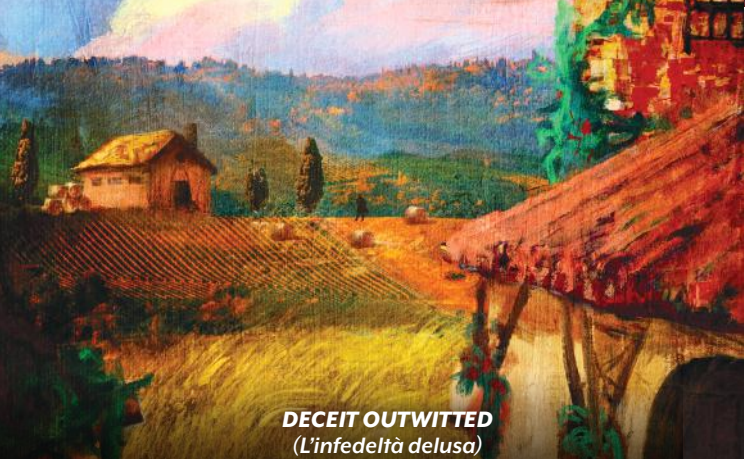
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Unusual ways to volunteer during the war

Israelis are finding quirky ways to aid those affected by the events of Oct. 7 and the ongoing battle in Gaza

By Abigail Klein Leichman, israel21c.org, Dec. 31, 2023

The Hamas attacks on Oct. 7 unleashed a tsunami of death and destruction on the Israeli people. But it also unleashed a tsunami of volunteering.

Several studies show that about half of Israeli citizens have been giving of their time since the war began, in addition to thousands of foreign volunteers.

Preparing meals for soldiers and displaced families; filling in for high-tech workers on reserve duty, donating blood and breastmilk and harvesting produce on severely shorthanded farms are among the needs volunteers are stepping up to fill.

Other volunteers are folding laundry at evacuee hotels, stocking supermarket shelves in the absence of regular workers, cleaning hospital rooms, babysitting for children of reserve soldiers and giving haircuts and beauty treatments to evacuees.

Here are additional unexpected ways that volunteers are supporting civilians and soldiers during these difficult days.

Vehicle rescuers

Thousands of evacuees had no way to retrieve their cars from their destroyed Gaza border communities, which are now closed military zones.

One resident of Kibbutz Nahal, Oz, contacted motor vehicle retailer Shlomo Group (Shlomo Sixt), asking for help.

In coordination with the IDF, the company recruited volunteer mechanics and logistics coordinators and made two trips to the dangerous region to extract a total of 65 intact vehicles (many cars were burned or demolished). Each operation involved 13 transport trucks and four SUVs.

On the run

Some of the Israelis who had to run from their homes in the first days of the war are now able to run toward positivity, thanks to Yael Goodman, founder of RUN JLM running tours.

With contributions from individual and business donors, including Chana-bana, Goodman procured and distributed running apparel and shoes, and organized runs through Jerusalem for dozens of evacuees sheltering in the capital city.

“With all their lives packed into one hotel room, running gives these evacuees a breath of fresh air, literally and figuratively. Others call it running; we call it therapy,” she said.

Donors can contribute to the project through an existing fund set up in memory of Goodman’s late brother.

Lending library

Literary critic Nurith Waisman partnered with the Arad Public Library to set up a free lending library for evacuees housed in Dead Sea hotels. Located on the top floor of the Zim Dead Sea Mall, the library is staffed entirely by volunteers.

Waisman told *The Times of Israel*: “It’s incredible what’s going on here. People keep on donating books for children, teenagers and adults with so much love.”

Soulmate matcher

Israeli actress, comedian and social-media influencer Maya Wertheimer launched a “Singles in Uniform” campaign asking her half million Instagram followers to post pictures of unattached soldiers to help them find the love of their lives.

Wertheimer, wed to former Israeli consul-general to New York Asaf Zamir, has shared dozens of photos and short descriptions of soldiers, saying she wants to “make sure that no soldier goes lonely.”



A Maya Wertheimer follower shared this picture of single 37-year-old reservist Amit, describing him as “perfect and funny.” Photo: Instagram screenshot

Wertheimer also visits wounded soldiers in hospitals, encouraging the single ones to let her help them find a partner with whom to build a family. “It gives you hope,” she said.

Traveling lavatory

Gabi Ohayon, owner of a framing shop in Rishon LeZion, wanted to do something practical to support the families of hostages abducted by Hamas.

Seeing that they were often holding rallies in public spaces, where it’s not easy to find a restroom, he rented a camper van and parked it wherever the families gathered.

The vehicle, covered with an Israeli flag and a banner of the hostages’ faces, has a bathroom as well as a couch and a coffee-making station.

Traveling laundromat

When you’re not home, how do you do your laundry?

Some of the hotels where evacuees are sheltering have installed washing machines and dryers for their use. There are also volunteers coming from near and far to help wash and fold laundry for these families.

Similarly, residents of communities near army encampments have been picking up soldiers’ laundry and bringing it back clean and folded. Rabbi Shai Graucher went so far as to haul washers and ironing boards to the bases.

Traveling seamstress

Upon learning that a duffel bag full of new size XL army uniforms sent by well-intentioned U.S. donors had

arrived at a southern army base, Ma’aleh Adumim friends Judy Slyper and Lisa Zenilman packed up two sewing machines and an iron and headed down to alter the uniforms to fit the soldiers.

They gave us a room with electrical outlets and a desk and table,” says Slyper. “I sewed and Lisa ironed. We finished a bunch of shirts and pants, and then some guys came in with requests. We hemmed pants and shirts, and fixed a backpack, belts and gloves.”

Traveling therapists

About 70 alternative medicine practitioners — acupuncturists, chiropractors, physiotherapists, massage therapists and energy healers in northern Israel — have so far given free treatments to approximately 2,500 male and female soldiers, mostly reservists between 25 and 40 years old.

The group, dubbed Chayal’s Angels (*chayal* is Hebrew for “soldier”), have the stated mission of keeping the troops’ spirits high and physical pain low.

Tasha Cohen, an organizational business manager from Pardes Hanna, founded the initiative and coordinates the sessions in army tents or fields. She says the practitioners are warmly appreciated.

Cohen is soliciting contributions toward the cost of gasoline to drive the volunteer therapists to the bases. After the war, she hopes to open a center where soldiers could come for free intensive treatment.

Ice cream delivery, gravedigging

JLIC Tel Aviv, a grassroots community of immigrants led by Rabbi Joe Wolfson and his wife, Corinne Shmuel, under the aegis of the Orthodox Union, has activated 700 volunteers for a wide range of projects since the start of the war.

“We have taken ice cream trucks to hotels where evacuees are housed, we have dug graves and we have done everything in between,” says Wolfson. “There’s an enormous pendulum swing of emotions from the most fun to the most horrific.”

One JLIC project has, so far, matched nearly 40 evacuees with relevant employment in Tel Aviv to help them establish a sense of purpose, routine and income until they can return home.

Another JLIC project, Adopt-A-Family, gives volunteers a to-do list and small budget to cover an evacuated family’s basic needs, including meals, laundry and even organizing birthday parties, bar mitzvahs and weddings.

Makers get busy

Tikkun Olam Makers (TOM), an Israeli American movement that fashions low-cost inventions for populations in need globally, has helped displaced Israelis with special needs by making dozens of toddler-size wheelchairs and customizable toilet seats for children with severe disabilities.

TOM communities also are developing a portfolio of rehab solutions for people who suffered severe injuries and

amputations due to the Hamas attacks and ensuing war.

TOM founder and president Gidi Grinstein said that the instructions to make TOM’s creations are documented in English and increasingly in Hebrew and Arabic.

“We are committed to our friends and partners in the Arab and Bedouin communities in Israel, as well as on the Palestinian side who are committed to peace even in these very difficult times,” he said.

Bringing the magic

Professional close-up magician Ophir Samson, an Israeli citizen living in California, flew in for two weeks to give free magic lessons and shows to victims of the attacks, families displaced by the attacks and released child hostages.

The itrek organization helped him organize 17-hour long lessons for displaced communities staying at evacuation hotels in Tel Aviv, Eilat and the Dead Sea.

“I taught 200 to 300 kids between 5 and 11 years old,” he tells ISRAEL21c. He gave each child a magic kit to keep.

“I wanted to do something because I feel Israel is my home,” says Samson, who also works as a private chef specializing in tasty menus of modern Israeli cuisine. At the beginning of the war, he auctioned off dinners, raising \$25,000 for Israeli emergency response organizations such as United Hatzalah and Magen David Adom.

“But I wanted to do more. Between 2011 and 2014, I ran a school of magic in Israel for disadvantaged Jewish and Arab children. I remembered the joy it brought to the kids, and I felt it was something I could do, so I hopped on a plane.”

Beef up our boys

At the start of the war, Beit Shemesh-based chef Etan Ogorek got a few calls from relatives of soldiers asking him for beef jerky — a dehydrated strip of spiced meat that provides a portable and shelf-stable high-protein snack — as an alternative to the canned tuna provided in IDF battle rations.

The project soon snowballed. One of Ogorek’s neighbors, A. Chaim Rutenberg, started covering the cost for local volunteers to make 1,000 pieces of beef jerky per day for soldiers and for ZAKA search-and-rescue volunteers.

Eventually, project leaders raised funds to procure kosher beef, salmon and even portobello mushroom jerky (for vegans) in bulk from suppliers in the United States. Each week, about 140 local volunteers repackage the nourishing snacks individually, affix stickers with blessings and photos and deliver them to IDF bases.

Rutenberg, a software QA engineer, is leading this effort full time.

“We are getting calls around the clock from soldiers saying, ‘You saved our lives, we really needed this.’ It’s not a ceramic helmet, but they need protein,” he says. “My goal is for people to see that a regular person can make a difference. And when you join with others, it’s a multiplier effect.”

Jewish Federations’ Israel Emergency Fund exceeds \$750 million

By Federation Staff

We are proud to share that Jewish Federations of North America’s (JFNA) collective Israel Emergency Fund has exceeded \$750 million, surpassing the initial goal of \$500 million, with allocations already going to the most pressing needs on the ground through nearly 300 partner organizations and NGOs. Organizations including the Jewish Agency for Israel, JDC, World ORT, Israel Trauma Coalition, United Hatzalah, Magen David Adom, ZAKA, Chabad and over a dozen hospitals and medical organizations have received critical aid supporting a variety of areas of focus like lifeline services, mental health and trauma relief, economic relief and recovery, and community resilience and rebuilding. Here’s how the Israel Emergency Fund goes to work:

Food security

Over 125,000 Israelis were evacuated by the Israeli government since the beginning of the war, many of whom have since lost the ability to provide for themselves. Tens of thousands more evacuated on their own and are internally displaced.

Jewish Federations have funded nine organizations providing food packages, hot meals and grocery vouchers to affected Israelis. JFNA is

regularly in contact with these agencies to make sure that necessary resources reach those who most need them.

Bedouin Israelis

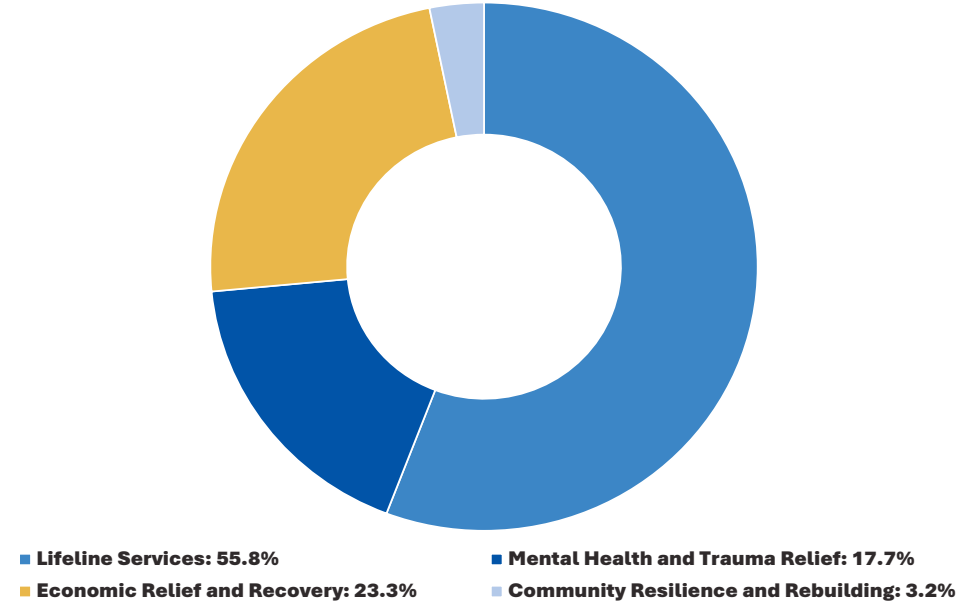
On Oct. 7, many members of Israel’s Bedouin community risked their lives to save Jews. They also suffered direct losses on that day; there are Bedouin hostages being held in Gaza and at least 26 Bedouin have been killed by Hamas.

There are over 300,000 Bedouin living in Israel’s south, one-third of whom do not have access to bomb shelters or safe rooms. To date, \$904,640 of Federation’s collective funds have been allocated to organizations providing services and assistance to Bedouin communities.

People with disabilities

For the thousands of Israelis evacuated from the country’s confrontation zones, it is a time of disruption, uncertainty, fear and trauma. These challenges are magnified for people with disabilities who often need adaptive living arrangements and rely upon a daily routine and additional special services, and who often face greater hardship from displacement. Disabled Israelis who have not faced evacuation also have elevated needs during this crisis.

In this time of darkness, Jewish Federations are ensuring that thousands of disabled Israelis — Jews and



non-Jews — are provided the support they need to live with the dignity they deserve and, to this end, have funded these 15 organizations.

Pastoral guidance and rabbinic services

The magnitude of the tragedy on Oct. 7 has required a rapid expansion of rabbinic services connected to death, mourning and spiritual guidance for the bereaved. Jewish Federations have provided this support through a range of programs supported by the Israel Emergency Fund.

Organizations that have received funds to provide these services include

Hesed Haim V’Emet, IMPJ-Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism, Masorti Movement, the Shalom Hartman Institute and Solomon Schechter.

The fundraising campaign is only one part of how Jewish Federations are working to support Israel. We have also launched the largest community mobilization effort to support Israel in our history. As part of that mobilization, JFNA and other major Jewish organizations planned the March for Israel, the largest pro-Israel rally in U.S. history, with 170 members of our community in attendance.

Find a full list of organizations online at JFEDSRQ.org/Allocations.

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It's all about the timing



From the Bimah

**Rabbi Sholom Schmerling,
Chabad of Venice & North Port**

There's a famous proverb: "The early bird catches the worm." The earlier you get started, the better your shot at success. But did you ever wonder what would happen if the bird got there too early? If the worm hasn't emerged yet, then being early is not an advantage. In life, we are often impatient. We are eager to move on to the next big thing, and we rush to get there as soon as we can. We feel that next milestone must be met today and that next goal needs to be achieved now.

But is this really a healthy urge? Do we sometimes fall into the trap of "arriving" too early? This year is a leap year in the Jewish calendar. We add an extra month (Adar II) so that

Passover will fall during the spring. The Jewish months are based on the cycle of the moon, with every month being just about 29.5 days. Twelve such months give you 354 days — 11 days less than the solar year of 365 days. After three such years, we are 33 days ahead of the solar year, thus Passover would fall during the late winter instead of spring.

To avoid falling into this trap, we have leap year. We add an extra month of Adar, thereby slowing us down and timing the arrival of Passover to coincide perfectly with the spring.

There is a profound lesson here: rushing ahead is not always advantageous. When our forefather Abraham set out to sacrifice his son Isaac, we are told, "And Abraham woke up early in the morning." The Talmud learns from this that one should always set out to perform a mitzvah at the soonest possible time — like Abraham, who woke up earlier than usual and set out to fulfill the special commandment he received from G-d. But if so, why didn't he leave in the middle of the night? The answer is the same. Early is good, but too early is not.

Abraham needed to be well rested for his long journey, and leaving in the middle of the night could have

jeopardized the whole mission. Also, traveling at night can be dangerous. So, although eager to set out in fulfillment of G-d's wishes, Abraham knew that it would be wiser to wait until morning.

Back to Passover. Passover is the festival of freedom. We went from being slaves to a foreign power to becoming our own sovereign nation. Every year on Passover, we are reborn and get the chance to start over. One can become an entirely new person and begin a new spiritual life. It is only appropriate for this holiday to be in the spring. Spring is the season of new beginnings. During winter, the trees stand bare, everything comes to a standstill and there is little movement or growth. With spring, a whole new life emerges. Trees put out leaves, flowers begin to bloom and a new year is ushered in. Winter is not the optimal time for making big changes and new beginnings. The atmosphere is cold and people are gloomy.

If we attempt to experience the festival of freedom too early, in middle of the winter, we might find ourselves lacking the motivation and, therefore, despairing, never again to attempt such a change. But if we get the timing right and make the new beginning in the spring, when the atmosphere is bright

and people's spirits high, we have a much better shot at success.

"Keep the month of spring, and make Passover to the L-rd, your G-d," the Torah tells us. It is the right time for the holiday of Passover.

The same is true in life. Just because something is good, it doesn't mean it's good for you now. One has to make sure the timing is right before setting off in pursuit of a dream. Accepting a promotion at work can be a wonderful opportunity. But, again, the timing has to be right. If, as a result, the person won't have time for family, it's probably best to wait. Maybe once children have grown up and become more independent, the time will be right to accept it.

When it comes to raising children, this lesson cannot be overstated. Many parents have the urge to push their children to do too much. Every accomplishment has to make sense for the child at his or her age, and the timing has to be right.

Let's heed the message of the leap year to slow down and live life in the present, without always rushing ahead to the next big thing. Let's appreciate what we have now and keep in mind that it's all about the timing. 🌍

For a continuously updated community calendar, visit jfedsrq.org/events

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“Parent and Me” brings sweetness to Temple Emanu-El

By Marni Mount, Parent and Me facilitator

Temple Emanu-El’s Parent and Me is a sweet, special group of parents and their little ones, 6 weeks to 20 months. Our weekly Friday morning get-togethers take place in the Susan Schwaid Early Learning Center of Temple Emanu-El’s youth lounge, and they concentrate on “Shabbat” and “Shalom.” Music, movement, parachutes, bubbles and dinosaurs keep us busy for our hour together!

Several of our interfaith families are especially appreciative of the gentle and embracing approach we provide for them to begin exploring and living Jewishly. Parents in the group are so supportive of varying ideas and customs of both Jewish and interfaith families.

My favorite part of Parent and Me (besides just being with these adorable little ones) is sitting back and having parents talk about the accomplishments and setbacks that affect every young family. Topics range from favorite books to crawling/walking to family dynamics to nap and sleep schedules — or lack thereof! As a longtime teacher with experience with young children, children with special needs



Parent and Me participants Ashley & Devon, Sinead & Callum, BethAnn & William and Becky & Gideon

and teaching in a Jewish preschool setting, I am grateful for this chance to share my expertise in such a warm and happy setting!

These engaging Parent and Me mornings are held Fridays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Please email me at bnaimitzvah@sarasotatemple.org

to learn more or to register. I look forward to seeing you and your little ones there! 🌈



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PJ Library Sarasota-Manatee is generously funded in part by Edie and David Chaifetz, and Amy and Steve Weinberger.

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Community Day School presents educational showcase

Biannual 'Learning on Display' offers a look inside students' learning experience

By Brenna Wilhm, Director of Development & Community Outreach

As it has for many years, Her-shorin Schiff Community Day School's winter showcase, "Learning on Display," featured students of all ages and grade levels giving presentations on classroom projects and showing their families and the community at large their growth as students and citizens. Topic areas and activities ranged from environmental stewardship, good citizenship, effective communication and a classroom's foray into journalism to science/STEAM and agriculture, healthy food/healthy bodies, art, reading, an investigation of sound and a variety of Judaic explorations.

Exhibiting the wonder and discoveries from the school year so far, the Early Childhood Education Center hallways were filled with spectacular curiosity and knowledge, with K-8 classrooms transformed into coastal habitats and oceans, newsrooms, theaters and a gallery of narratives, to name a few. Learning on Display is an opportunity for each student to share the results of months of classroom learning and experiences. Throughout the year, interests and curiosity are nurtured by teachers with encouragement and educational engagement.

Twice every school year, students and teachers feature their learning

journey, serving as docents for an exhibition of study, experimentation and attainment. "Project-based learning asks students to investigate and solve actual problems and create authentic products that showcase the learning process. We also tie in elements of community service so that our students will become lifelong ambassadors for peace, environmental stewardship and social justice," said Head of School Dan Ceaser. "Our parents, families and community members are always impressed with the professionalism, composure and knowledge that our students display as they curate their projects."

Learning on Display highlights the value of applying learning in a meaningful, relevant and socially constructive context rather than forcing students to sit for state-mandated assessments, where children must take in and then regurgitate predetermined content. The school's focus on project-based learning empowers students to investigate and solve actual problems as well as pursue topics that are personally meaningful.

For more information about Community Day School, call 941-552-2770, ext. 212 or visit communityday.org.



Learning on Display collage featuring early childhood education and K-8 upper school displays

To place an ad in *The Jewish News*, please contact Marc Kaufman at 941.552.6307 or mkaufman@jfedsrq.org

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Doug Shapiro in Fully Committed at The Barnstormers/photo credit Lisa DuFault

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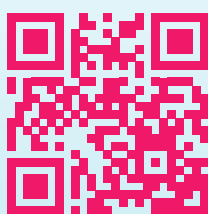
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Shabbat BaChootz at Temple Sinai

By Gail Glickman

Young children and their families participated in a delightful celebration of Shabbat in the outdoor classroom and preschool playground at Temple Sinai on a beautiful Saturday morning, Dec. 2. The gathering began *baChootz* (outside) with *Geveret* Laura Freedman, director of early childhood education, and student

Rabbi Bethany Leinweber, director of youth education and family engagement, leading Shabbat blessings and a singalong. Everyone enjoyed chiming in together! There was a wide range of festivities for everyone to enjoy, including dancing, music and movement.

Following the songfest, the children were invited to participate in arts

and crafts activities and playground fun. While the parents observed the children, they schmoozed and connected with one another. Naturally, every special occasion celebrated by The Gan at Temple Sinai treats the students to snack time, and this was no exception. It was a wonderful Saturday morning for parents and children alike. After a full morning, saying goodbye for the weekend was difficult.

Freedman expressed her pleasure about the Shabbat BaChootz. "Our precious time together on a Shabbat morning enabled the families with young children to build, create and enhance the strong sense of community that makes up the Temple Sinai family." Bethany Leinweber added, "It's always so wonderful to get together on a Saturday morning to celebrate Shabbat — sing, dance, say blessings and enjoy Temple Sinai's incredible playground!" 🌟



Charlotte Litevsky shows her Hanukkah card.



Temple Sinai parents and children enjoying Shabbat BaChootz



Temple Sinai Shabbat BaChootz

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*Anti-Defamation League survey of American Jews & perceptions of antisemitism

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Avi Shalev, son of Jaspreet Bindra and Itay Shalev
Feb. 17, Temple Emanu-El

Jonathan Yodfat, son of Kendra and Uriel Yodfat
Feb. 17, Temple Sinai

Asher Wasserman, son of Gabe and Shana Wasserman
Feb. 23, Jewish Congregation of Venice

Carter Hankin, son of Shannon and Michael Hankin
Feb. 24, Temple Emanu-El

IN MEMORIAM

George Kole, 76, of Sarasota, formerly of Chicago, IL, Nov. 26

Dr. Alan Dattner, 79, of Sarasota, Nov. 29

Jane Glusman, 85, of Sarasota, formerly of Nashville, TN, Dec. 19

Joel Hamovit, 88, of Longboat Key, formerly of Chevy Chase, MD, Dec. 11

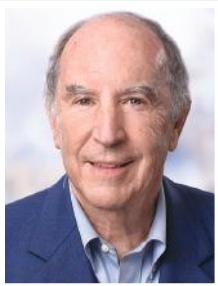
Nancy Lieber, 80, of Longboat Key, formerly of Chevy Chase, MD, Nov. 17

Susan Polhemus, 76, of North Port, formerly of Brooklyn
and Albany, NY, Nov. 24

Judson Werbelow, 93, of Sarasota, formerly of Lansing, MI, Dec. 6



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EXCITING START!

This year's Mort Skirboll Jewish Film Festival is off to a phenomenal start!

Record crowds came out to see each of our first two standalone feature films, beginning with *Hope Without Boundaries* in December when the audience heard Dr. Ben Sachs describe current medical conditions in Israel. In January, audience members at *Resistance: They Fought Back* were moved to hear writer/producer, Paula Apsell speak about her experiences that led to the creation of her film, followed by a Q&A.

There is still time to catch the third feature film, *The Catskills*, on February 18th at 4:30. Admission to the event includes a Catskills-inspired nosh prior to the film. Afterwards, there will be a discussion and Q&A with writer/producer, Lex Gillespie.

The weeklong festival opens March 3 at The Ora, the new premier event venue on the Federation campus. Kick off Opening Night with *The Rhapsody*, the astonishing true story of composer and Polish Holocaust Survivor, Leo Spellman, and the moving orchestral masterpieces inspired by his experience.

The rest of the week of the Jewish Film Festival features something for every film buff from lighthearted romantic comedies to moving documentaries.

Individual tickets
and ticket bundles
for all of the films
can be purchased
at jfedsrq.org/jff



Jewish Happenings

**All event and program times listed here are Eastern Standard Time unless otherwise indicated.
For a continuously updated community calendar, visit jfedsrq.org/events.**

WEEKDAYS

Daily Shacharit Minyan – Prayers and Learning

We gather bright and early at 8 a.m. daily to start our day together in an inspiring way at Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice. Coffee is served. Contact Rabbi Sholom Schmerling at rabbi@chabadofvenice.com or 941-493-2770.

THURSDAY, FEB. 1

Mitzvah Knitting Group

Temple Emanu-El's signature Mitzvah Knitting Group welcomes you! If you are a knitter or crocheter interested in using your talent to brighten the lives of others while making new friends, please join us! We gather at 10 a.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month to craft and socialize; our beautiful handiwork is donated to nonprofits in Sarasota-Manatee and Israel. Bring your needles or crochet hook and favorite pattern – we'll supply the yarn and great company! Free. Temple Emanu-El, 151 McIntosh Road; Lori Klein, lklein98@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, FEB. 2

Rabbi Richard F. Address at Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

Hosted by Temple Beth Israel (TBI) and beginning at 5:30 p.m. with Shabbat services, followed by a Shabbat dinner, Rabbi Address, the Founder and Director of Jewish Sacred Aging, will discuss the Jewish approach to physical and mental health. On Saturday, the theme continues at 10 a.m., focusing on Jewish value-based sacred decisions as life changes present new challenges. We especially invite anyone interested in joining TBI to attend this session, which is followed by a free Shabbat Café breakfast and a chance to meet members of the congregation. Finally, on Sunday at 9:30 a.m., the Men's Club of TBI hosts a breakfast with Rabbi Address as he leads a conversation about new rituals and blessings for our new life stages. The Shabbat dinner is \$35 for TBI members and \$45 for nonmembers. The Saturday Shabbat Café is free to all and the Sunday breakfast is \$15 for both TBI members and nonmembers. Call the Temple at 941-383-3428 to register.

SATURDAY, FEB. 3

Torah Study

Join us at 9:30 a.m. every Shabbat morning, when we examine the weekly Torah reading through the lens of contemporary commentary. You'll be amazed at how topical and relevant the Parsha (weekly Torah reading) ideas and concepts really are. Both mystical and pragmatic, these sessions will truly elevate your spirits and refine your view of the world around you. Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice. Contact Rabbi Sholom Schmerling at rabbi@chabadofvenice.com or 941-493-2770.

More Jewish Happenings

The Jewish News is a monthly nonprofit newspaper supported by generous readers, committed advertisers and The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee.

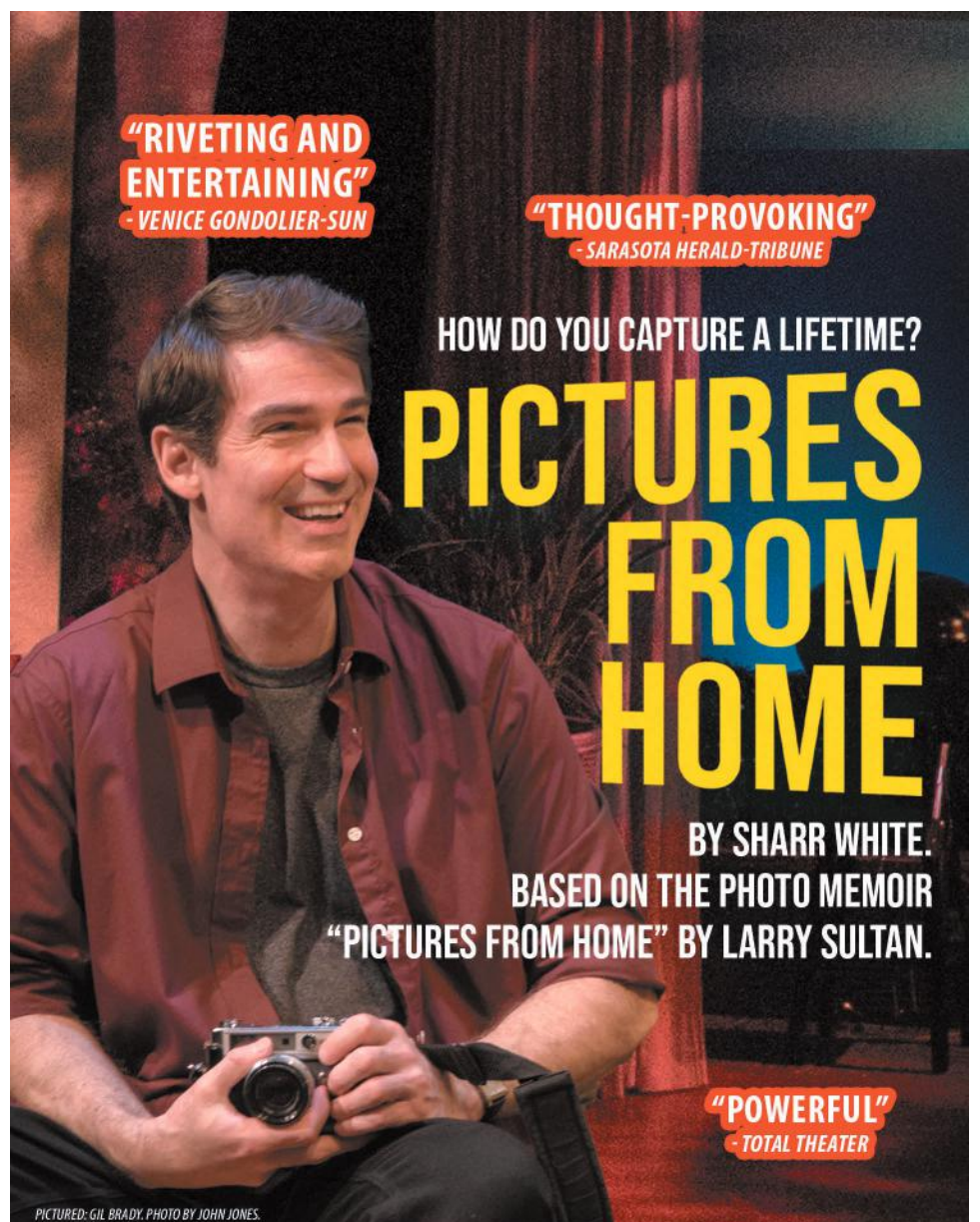
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Knish - potato/Large (frozen unbaked)	4 for \$32		
Knish - spinach/Large (frozen unbaked)	4 for \$32		
Kugel	4 for \$24		
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② Print and complete this form and send it to the JCV: 600 N. Auburn Rd., Venice, FL 34292 with a check made payable to the Jewish Congregation of Venice marked "FF Specialties" so your account is credited properly. PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER.

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SUNDAY, FEB. 4

Morning Tefillin Club Shacharit

We gather every Sunday at 9 a.m. to start our week off in a meaningful way together. Coffee is served. Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice. Contact Rabbi Sholom Schmerling at rabbi@chabadofvenice.com or 941-493-2770.

Temple Sinai 16th Annual Sarasota Jewish Food Festival

Temple Sinai hosts the 16th Annual Sarasota Jewish Food Festival where thousands enjoy a tantalizing day of traditional homemade Jewish delicacies. This indoor free event for the whole community begins at 10 a.m. and features hard-to-resist corned beef and pastrami from Carnegie Deli, bagels and cream cheese, kugel, blintzes, knishes, matzo ball soup and stuffed cabbage, just to name a few. Temple Sinai "bakers" prepare home-baked challah, cakes, pies, pastries and cookies. In addition, there will be craft and jewelry vendors, unique treasures and an art sale. Entrance to the festival is free; tickets can be purchased for food. The Sun-Coast Blood Bank Blood Mobile will be at Temple Sinai and donors will receive free tickets for food. To register for blood donations, visit temple-sarasota.org. 4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Road (enter only from Proctor Road), Sarasota.

Join Kol HaNeshama for Books and Bagels

You may be familiar with Letty Cottin Pogrebin as a founding editor of *Ms. Magazine*, the author of 10 nonfiction works and two novels and a prominent social justice activist. She has recently published "Shanda: A Memoir of Shame and Secrecy." This fiercely candid autobiography focuses on dozens of her extended family — three generations of 20th-century Jews who struggle with the desire to fit in while confronting their fear of public humiliation. Members of Kol HaNeshama's monthly book club, "Books and Bagels," will discuss this work in person at a congregant's home at 10 a.m. To register or for more information, please visit khsarasota.org or email office@khsarasota.org.

The Landscape of Love through the Song of Songs

"The Landscape of Love through the Song of Songs" with Rabbi Shefa Gold will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. in Sarasota. This event, hosted by Association of Professional Jewish Artists (APJA), is a benefit for the Adding Our Voices: Jewish Feminist and Gender-Inclusive Music Initiative. A minimum donation of \$18 is required. "The whole Torah is Holy," says Rabbi Akiva, "but the Song of Songs is the Holy of Holies." Rabbi Shefa Gold's new project — Love at the Center, is an immersion in the Song of Songs. In this workshop, participants will enter into the landscape of this Sacred Song. APJA is a subsidiary of the Sarasota-based international non-profit Reclaiming Judaism. Inquiries: Rabbi Goldie Milgram, rebgoldie@gmail.com. Private location will be provided. Email for registration link: klapshein@aol.com.

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MONDAY, FEB. 5

Kol HaNeshama Offers Conversational Hebrew Class

Shalom! Az, Ma Chadash? Congregation Kol HaNeshama (KH) is continuing its popular conversational Hebrew class. Taught by Ari Delevie, a Sabra born in Haifa, the class gives the participant a good foundation for understanding and speaking Hebrew. Students discover words they already know; learn how to discuss foods, colors, occupations; and much, much more. Classes are held through Zoom every Monday, 10-11 a.m. The course is free for KH members and \$18 for guests. To register or for more information, please visit khsarasota.org or email office@khsarasota.org.

TUESDAY, FEB. 6

Turning Points in Modern Jewish History with Rabbi Stuart Altshuler

Join Rabbi Altshuler at 10:30 a.m. as he discusses Jewish history on Tuesday mornings, not in a linear fashion, year by year, but by the significant turning points in Jewish history: The Modern Period. From Enlightenment in Western Europe to the aftermath of the Holocaust, the rise of the State of Israel on Yom Ha'atzmaut. In person at 1050 S. Tuttle Ave. Bldg. 2, Sarasota and virtually on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/2926069224> (fill out the form on the homepage of templebethsholomfl.org for the password). No cost, but donations are always welcome. For more information, please visit templebethsholomfl.org/event; TBS office, 941-955-8121 or info@tbssrq.org.

Bagels, Lox & Shmooze

Enjoy the camaraderie of your Chabad family as we share lunch together! Noon at Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice; no charge — donations appreciated. For more information, call 941-493-2770 or go to www.chabadofvenice.com.

Women's Torah & Tea with Sara Steinmetz

Torah and Tea for women will create a relaxed and inspirational afternoon. What could be warmer and more welcoming than a cup of tea or coffee, relevant Torah insights, inspired discussion and friendly interaction with other Jewish women? If this sounds alluring, you are welcome to join us at Chabad of Sarasota on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 1 p.m. RSVP to Sara Steinmetz via email at Sara@ChabadofSarasota.com or call 941-925-0770.

Lutheran Christian & Judaism Interfaith Program with Rabbi Stuart Atlshuler and Rev. Kenneth Blyth

Join Rabbi Altshuler and Rev. Kenneth Blyth at 2 p.m. as they co-host this unique interfaith program between Lutheran Christians and Judaism. This special four-part collaboration is the perfect chance for everyone to unite as a community and bridge the "religious gap" that plagues the world. Contact info@tbssrq.org for more information on how you can attend. In person at 1050 S. Tuttle Ave. Bldg. 2, Sarasota. No cost, but donations are always welcome. For more information, please visit templebethsholomfl.org/event; TBS office, 941-955-8121 or info@tbssrq.org.

Temple Sinai Jewish Genealogy Series

Learn tricks and tools to research and create your own family tree during this six-part series on Tuesdays, Feb. 6, 20 and 27 and in March at 7 p.m. In partnership with the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southwest Florida (JGSSWF), Temple Sinai is excited to present this series, complete with expert advice and expert presenters, including Avraham Groll, JGSSWF, Robinn Magid, JRI-Poland, and Peggy Jude, professional genealogist researcher and educator. Session 1 is an introduction and presentation by Temple Sinai and JGSSWF member Doug Cohen, and JGSSWF President Kim Sheintal. \$36 members; \$54 nonmembers. To register, visit temple-sinai-sarasota.org. 4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Road (enter only from Proctor Road), Sarasota.



THE PUNCHLINE QUARTET
Monday, February 12, 2024 | 7:00 PM
Sarasota Art Museum, Sarasota

Combining musical mastery with a touch of wit, the Punchline Quartet delivers engaging performances that crescendo to a captivating musical punchline. The Punchline Quartet understands the importance of making music an approachable realm, and an experience that is reflective of today's world and audience. **Kate Arndt, violin; Ria Honda, violin; Sarah Sung, viola; Elena Ariza, cello.**



"HERS" CARR-PETROVA DUO
Sunday, March 3, 2024 | 6:00 PM
The Harvest, Sarasota
Album release, artist talk, and concert

"HERS" vibrantly celebrates the vision, strength, resilience, and incredible accomplishments of eight fearless women – from the 12th century's Hildegard Von Bingen to today's Beyoncé. In a pre-performance talk, they will speak about the composers and their importance in music history. **Molly Carr, viola; Anna Petrova, piano.**

Visit our website for tickets and more information: PERLMANSUNCOAST.ORG

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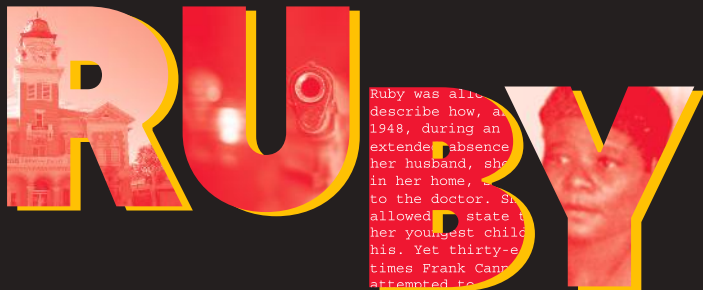
at Temple Sinai
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Special thanks to Temple Sinai and JGSSWF member, Doug Cohen, and JGSSWF President, Kim Sheintal, for their time, expertise and creativity in helping to set up this series!

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7

Jewish Ethics with Rabbi Stuart Altshuler

Join us Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. as Rabbi Altshuler presents "Jewish Ethics: A Way to Life & A Blueprint for A Better World." In this series, Rabbi Altshuler will cover a variety of topics from "Anger: Righteous anger and anger we need to get rid of" to "Tzedakah." Please visit our website for more information and a full class schedule. In person at 1050 S. Tuttle Ave. Bldg. 2, Sarasota and virtually on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/2926069224> (fill out the form on the homepage of templebethsholomfl.org for the password). No cost, but donations are always welcome. For more information, please visit templebethsholomfl.org/event; TBS office, 941-955-8121 or info@tbssrq.org.

Temple Emanu-El Presents "Lunch with the Rabbis"

Are you looking for a great lunch date? Bring a brown-bag lunch and join Temple Emanu-El Senior Rabbi Brenner Glickman, Associate Rabbi Michael Shefrin and friendly, interesting companions for socializing and discussion of current events and subjects of Jewish interest. We'll even provide a delicious homemade dessert. This popular monthly program is livelier than ever, and all are welcome! Free. Temple Emanu-El, 151 McIntosh Road at noon. Please call 941-371-2788 for more information.

Idelson Library Book Review

Temple Beth Sholom's Idelson Library invites you to this month's book review of "The Confidante: The Untold Story of the Woman Who Helped Win WWII and Shape Modern America" by Christopher C. Gorham (2023) reviewed by Judge Judith Barzilay. The first-ever biography of Anna M. Rosenberg, who was famous in the '40s and '50s as FDR's close wartime advisor and, later, as Assistant Secretary of Defense during the Korean War. Light refreshments sponsored by the TBS Sisterhood will be available in the chapel foyer after the book review. In person at 1:15 p.m. in the Chapel at TBS, 1050 S. Tuttle Ave. Bldg. 2, Sarasota. No cost, but donations are always welcome. For more information, please visit templebethsholomfl.org/event.

Temple Beth Israel's Michael B. Eisenstat Miniversity Highlights Sondheim



Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

Temple Beth Israel, with the sponsorship of Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, continues its program highlighting Jewish culture, values, history, and more with a session on "The Life and Magic of Stephen Sondheim" presented by Diane Steinbrink. This popular series discusses both spiritual and secular topics, largely from a Jewish perspective. This session presents a new perspective on one of the most influential composers and lyricists of our time. The event is held at Temple Beth Israel, 567 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key at 2 p.m. The lecture is free to TBI members, and the nonmember fee is only \$10. Space is limited so registration is encouraged. To register or for more information, visit www.longboatkeytemple.org, email office@longboatkeytemple.org or call 941-383-3428.

Hebrew School of the Arts

Judaism comes alive in our stimulating, friendly, upbeat environment. Children ages 5-13 revel in the spirit of Jewish pride and identity inspired by our creative educators who build an appreciation of the joys, values and traditions of our heritage into every session. Along with the Aleph-Bais, holiday learning and Hebrew literacy, your child will embrace their heritage through music, art, STEAM, drama and cooking. Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice, 4:30-6:45 p.m. To give your child this special opportunity, register at www.chabadofvenice.com/hs. For more information, contact Rivka@chabadofvenice.com or 941-493-2770.

JLI - Advice for Life

The Rebbe's spiritual leadership is the force behind the modern Chabad movement. Join us for a multimedia journey through the Rebbe's practical wisdom on work, family, health and well-being. Discover how the Rebbe applied Jewish values to serve as a guide for finding deeper meaning in everyday life. The Chabad House, 5712 Lorraine Road and on Zoom at 7:30 p.m. Fee: \$90 (textbook included). For more information, call Rabbi Mendy Bukiet at 941-752-3030 or e-mail rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com.

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Jewish Happenings to
jewishnews@jfedsrq.org**

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Community support for cardiac, cancer and orthopedic care helps Sarasota Memorial maintains its rank as one of the nation's top hospitals—so you can enjoy the life you love.



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FRIDAY, FEB. 9

Temple Beth Israel Explores the Jewish Perspective on Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice

On the Shabbat of Parshat Mishpatim, when we read the verses that are the foundation of Judaism's beliefs on reproductive health, rights and justice, these timely and often debated topics will be the focus of the "Repro Shabbat" service, followed by a special Oneg Shabbat. Sponsored by the Social Action Committee of Temple Beth Israel, in cooperation with the National Council of Jewish Women, all are welcome to join this enlightening exploration of a topic so important to the meaning of Jewish life and justice. This special Shabbat service and Oneg is being held at Temple Beth Israel, 567 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key and begins at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.longboatkeytemple.org, email office@longboatkeytemple.org or call 941-383-3428.

Temple Sinai "Soup-er Bowl" Shabbat Dinner

After a meaningful Erev Shabbat service, join in a festive "Soup-er Bowl" dinner, a *Tailgate Shabbat* fun celebration before Super Bowl Sunday, 6 p.m. at 4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Road (enter only from Proctor Road), Sarasota. After the Erev Shabbat services, stay for a "soup-er" dinner and game night. Many kinds of soups and sandwiches will be served. Board games will be provided or bring your own. \$25/adult Temple Sinai members, \$30/nonmembers, \$5/child under 12. To register, visit templesinai-sarasota.org.

SATURDAY, FEB. 10

Torah Study

Join us at 9:30 a.m. every Shabbat morning, when we examine the weekly Torah reading through the lens of contemporary commentary. You'll be amazed at how topical and relevant the Parsha (weekly Torah reading) ideas and concepts really are. Both mystical and pragmatic, these sessions will truly elevate your spirits and refine your view of the world around you. Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice. Contact Rabbi Sholom Schmerling at rabbi@chabadofvenice.com or 941-493-2770.

"Ahavah" Tot Shabbat at Temple Emanu-El

Celebrate Shabbat and "Ahavah" (love) at 10 a.m. with at Temple Emanu-El's signature Tot Shabbat program! Jewish and interfaith families will enjoy outdoor and indoor playtime with old and new friends, a love-themed craft, treats and fun surprises, plus participate in age-appropriate songs, prayers, movement, birthday blessings and a story in honor of love, friendship and family. Tot Shabbat is designed for families with children up to age 6, but all are welcome. Free. Temple Emanu-El, 151 McIntosh Road. Please visit sarasotatemple.org to register.

A 50th Anniversary Celebration for Temple Beth El

We're celebrating 50 years of being a congregation in Manatee County. Join the members, friends and supporters of Temple Beth El Bradenton/Lakewood Ranch at 6 p.m. on Feb. 10, as we commemorate this wonderful achievement with a magnificent dinner dance. It will be a night of good food, a LIVE 4-piece band for dancing the night away and some terrific live and silent auction items. For more information (including location) about attending this wonderful event, donating to the event or about being part of the Journal honoring Temple Beth El, please go to www.bethel-fl.org/gala. \$65 TBE members, \$70 guests. Help solidify the future of TBE by supporting this event!



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SUNDAY, FEB. 11

PJ Library Presents: Celebrating Tu BiShvat with a glimpse of Camp Yonnie life



Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

Activities include Tu BiShvat story time, meet the Camp Yonnie staff, crafting stations, family activities, camping snacks, and more. Camp Director Shelly DeCesare and staff will be on site to answer questions and assist with signing up for summer sessions. Giveaways and prizes for those who register at the event, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Urfer Park, 4012 Honore Ave., Sarasota. To register visit jfedsrq.org/events. For information, contact Shelly DeCesare at sdeczare@jfedsrq.org or call 941-538-5427. This is a free event.

CTeen Kayaking Trip

We kayak with our own guide through the beautiful Florida mangroves! Enjoy a picnic lunch, kayaking and nature activities! Meet at the Chabad House, 5712 Lorraine Road at 12:30 p.m. \$60, free for CTeen Members (annual membership is \$200). RSVP by Jan. 26. For information, call Rabbi Mendy Bukiet at 941-752-3030 or email rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com.

Temple Emanu-El Israeli Cooking Class

Sponsored by the Israel Committee, these popular Israeli cooking workshops offer wonderful hands-on experience preparing delicious Israeli dishes with old and new friends. Join talented cooking instructor Dalia Rosenthal at 1 p.m. to learn a classic vegetarian Israeli menu comprising shakshuka, minted watermelon salad with feta, Israeli stuffed dates and oatmeal power balls. Space is limited! \$18. Temple Emanu-El, 151 McIntosh Road. Visit sarasota.temple.org to register or contact Jodi O'Neill at jeoneill2@gmail.com.

TBS Men's Club Breakfast

TBS Men's Club is proud to host Chuck "Chucko the Clown" Sidlow as he presents a spectacular behind the "Big top" view of life in the circus. Sidlow's award-winning clown acts have garnered the favor of thousands. Though officially retired, he performs in retirement homes as a volunteer. Presentation begins at 10 a.m., followed by a Q&A session at TBS' Sainer Social Hall at 1050 S. Tuttle Ave. Bldg. 2, Sarasota. \$15 pp, registrations requested. For more information and to register, please visit templebethsholomfl.org/event.

Morning Tefillin Club Shacharit

Start our week off in a meaningful way. 9 a.m., coffee served. Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane. Contact rabbi@chabadofvenice.com or 941-493-2770.

WHO NEEDS MONEY FOR COLLEGE?



Education Scholarship Program

Each year, JFSM awards education scholarships to qualified applicants from Sarasota & Manatee counties attending college, community college, vocational/technical school, or university.

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Jewish Federation
of Sarasota-Manatee

For more info, contact Kathy Bublick:
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— Carolyn Nathan



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Join Temple Beth Israel in Exploring the Jewish View on Reproductive Health

Friday, February 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

On the Shabbat of Parshat Mishpatim, when we read the verses that are the foundation of Judaism's beliefs on reproductive health, rights and justice, these timely, and often debated, topics will be the focus of Temple Beth Israel's "Repro Shabbat" service, followed by a special Oneg Shabbat.

Sponsored by the Temple's Social Action Committee, in cooperation with the National Council of Jewish Women, all are welcome to join this enlightening exploration of a topic so important to the meaning of life and justice.

For more information, visit www.longboatkeytemple.org, email office@longboatkeytemple.org or call 941-383-3428.

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NCJW

MONDAY, FEB. 12

Kol HaNeshama Offers Conversational Hebrew Class

Shalom! Az, Ma Chadash? Congregation Kol HaNeshama (KH) is continuing its popular conversational Hebrew class. Taught by Ari Delevie, a Sabra born in Haifa, the class gives the participant a good foundation for understanding and speaking Hebrew. Students discover words they already know, learn how to discuss foods, colors, occupations, and much more. Classes are held through Zoom every Monday, 10-11 a.m. The course is free for KH members and \$18 for guests. To register or for more information, please visit khsarasota.org or email office@khsarasota.org. Conducted via Zoom at 10 a.m. \$18 per guest.

Temple Sinai presents Words and Watercolors

Richard Morgan will read selected poems from his books, tell the personal stories behind the poems and show slides of his wife, Pat Morgan's, watercolors that illustrate the books. Richard has been a poet and a teacher for more than 50 years, Jewish longer than that. With this as his background, he encourages his audience to react, make comments and ask questions about what he shares and how it relates to them. His poems are accessible, sensitive and humorous at times. Past poetry program listeners have said that, for them, he opened a new or greater appreciation of poetry. Event scheduled for 10:30 a.m. at 4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Road (enter only from Proctor Road), Sarasota. To register, visit templesinai-sarasota.org.

"Lunch and Learn" with Carrie Seidman

Temple Emanu-El Sisterhood proudly hosts this event featuring Carrie Seidman, opinion columnist for the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* and founder of the FACEing Mental Illness project, podcast and blog. She will share her thoughts on mental health services in Sarasota, exploring how far we've come in the past decade — and what is still missing. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. (attendees are asked to bring their own lunch, and dessert will be provided). The presentation begins at noon. Free. Temple Emanu-El, 151 McIntosh Road. Please register at sarasotatemple.org.

TUESDAY, FEB. 13

Bagels, Lox & Shmooze

Enjoy the camaraderie of your Chabad family as we share lunch together! Noon at Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice; no charge — donations appreciated. For more information, call 941-493-2770 or go to www.chabadofvenice.com.

Who Was That Person Sitting Next to Me in Synagogue?

Did you ever wonder about the individual davening next to you? Kol HaNeshama is convening its popular program "Who Was That Person Sitting Next to Me in Synagogue?" at Mattison's Forty-One Restaurant in Sarasota at noon. Members and friends meet over lunch and hear from one of their own, who tells the group highlights of their life story. This month, the speaker is Toby Deutsch, a past president and long-time member of the congregation. To pick your luncheon entrée and register, or for more information, please visit khsarasota.org or email office@khsarasota.org. Mattison's is located at 7275 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. \$30 per guest. Contact Mike Stephens at 941-244-2042 or office@khsarasota.org.

Exploring Judaism: A New Class by Kol HaNeshama's Rabbi Sigal Brier

Would you like to learn a bit more about a specific Jewish text or a particular religious practice? Is there something that you've always wanted to study? Explore different topics in Jewish text, practice and thought with Rabbi Sigal as part of her continuing "Exploring Judaism" series. The class meets 7:30-9 p.m. via Zoom every second Tuesday of the month. The course is free for Kol HaNeshama members and \$18 for guests. To register or for more information about this class, please visit khsarasota.org or email office@khsarasota.org. Conducted via Zoom. Contact Mike Stephens at 941-244-2042 or office@khsarasota.org.

Read the current and previous editions of *The Jewish News* at jfedsrq.org/jewish-news



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or 941-706-0027



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– Lorrie

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

Temple Beth Israel's Michael B. Eisenstat Miniversity Examines "Why We Say What We Pray"

Temple Beth Israel, with the sponsorship of Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, continues its stimulating program of Jewish life and history with Rabbi Peter Kasdan's fascinating exploration of the prayers we say. Examining the when, where, why and how of the prayers most familiar to us, Rabbi Kasdan leads a discussion on the roots and themes of the prayers themselves. Whether you speak Hebrew or not, this session will cast new light and meaning on what we too often may say by rote. Starting at 2 p.m., the event will be held at Temple Beth Israel, 567 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key. Free to TBI members; the nonmember fee is \$10. Space is limited so registration is encouraged. Visit www.longboatkeytemple.org, email of-fice@longboatkeytemple.org or call 941-383-3428.

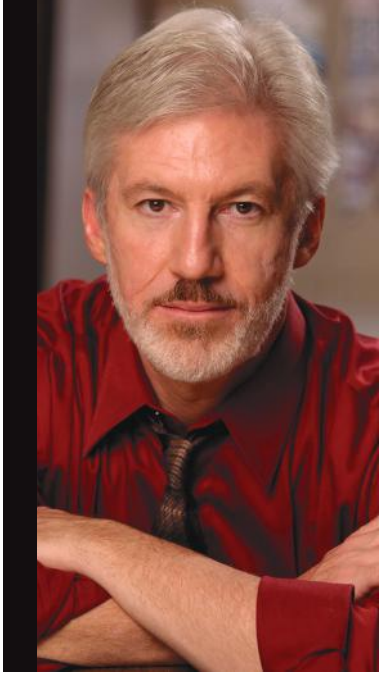
Hebrew School of the Arts

Judaism comes alive in our stimulating, friendly, upbeat environment. Children ages 5-13 revel in the spirit of Jewish pride and identity inspired by our creative educators who build an appreciation of the joys, values and traditions of our heritage into every session. Along with the Aleph-Bais, holiday learning and Hebrew literacy, your child will embrace their heritage through music, art, STEAM, drama and cooking. Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice, 4:30-6:45 p.m. To give your child this special opportunity, register at www.chabadofvenice.com/hs. For more information, contact Rivka@chabadofvenice.com or 941-493-2770.

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TOM DUGAN IS BACK!

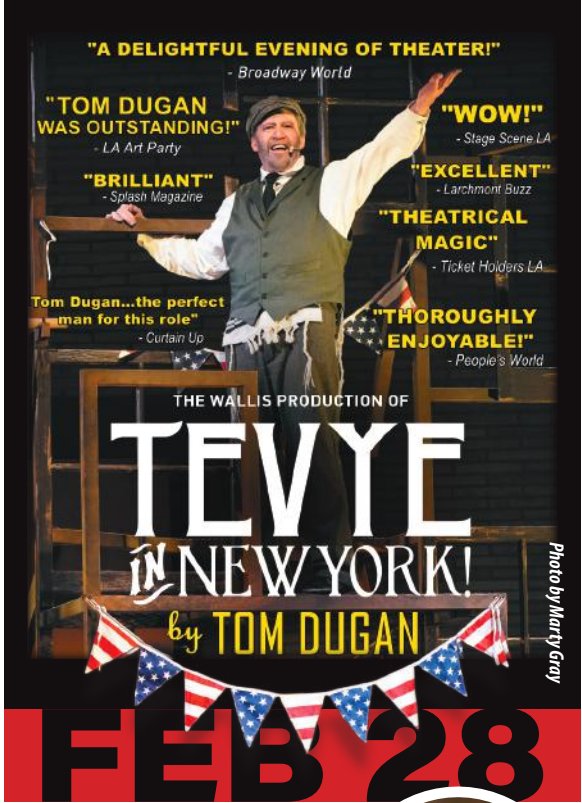


COMING OFF RAVE REVIEWS FROM HIS VIRTUAL SHOW LAST YEAR, TOM DUGAN ARRIVES IN SARASOTA FOR

TWO SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS!

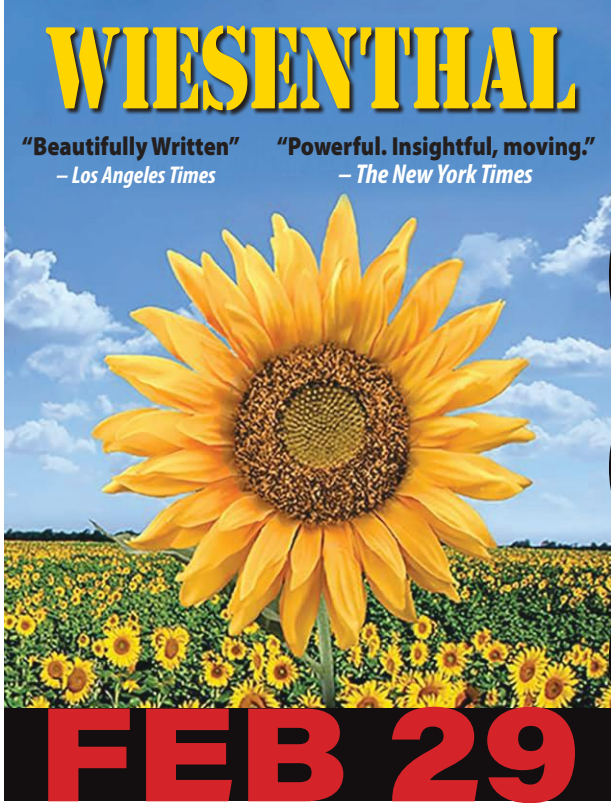
Tevye in New York!

We are reunited with our old friend Tevye in this one-man show, as he navigates a new life making his way through Ellis Island and settling on the Lower East Side of New York. Tevye is now a US citizen. He continues to regale us with his one-way conversations with G-d as he deals with family clashes over women's rights and the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. Enjoy Tevye's humorous take on high-tech advances like automobiles, electricity, and the telephone!



Wiesenthal

Dugan's award-winning one-man show *Wiesenthal* tells the story of the legendary Nazi Hunter as he is about to retire, closing down his Vienna office of 58 years. Dugan addresses the audience in select scenes from his book *Wiesenthal* as if we are American students on a visit, and takes us on a journey filled with history, geography, and tales of war criminals.



For more information on these events or to purchase tickets visit:

Tevye in New York!

JFEDSRQ.org/Tevye

Wiesenthal

JFEDSRQ.org/potb



Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

2024

The Ora Temple Beth Sholom

Feb 28, 7PM

Feb 29, 2PM

TEVYE IN NY!

WIESENTHAL



THURSDAY, FEB. 15

Mitzvah Knitting Group

Temple Emanu-El's signature Mitzvah Knitting Group welcomes you! If you are a knitter or crocheter interested in using your talent to brighten the lives of others while making new friends, please join us! We gather at 10 a.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month to craft and socialize; our beautiful handiwork is donated to nonprofits in Sarasota-Manatee and Israel. Bring your needles or crochet hook and favorite pattern – we'll supply the yarn and great company! Free. Temple Emanu-El, 151 McIntosh Road; Lori Klein, lklein98@gmail.com.

Venice Holocaust Education Week Featuring Irene Zisblatt, Survivor of Auschwitz

An inspiring morning of resilience and strength as a survivor of Auschwitz and Mengele's evil experiments recalls her harrowing experiences. Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice, 10:30 a.m. Tickets at www.chabadofvenice.com. For more information, call 941-493-2770 or go to www.chabadofvenice.com.

Rosh Chodesh Society — One Wow Moment

One Wow Moment is not an overview of these ancient lives; rather, it analyzes the components of their fateful decisions and weighs the stakes involved. Each of its seven classes challenges participants to consider how they might have reacted under similar circumstances, harvest the life lessons inherent within each biblical narrative and reframe ancient dilemmas into practical and empowering guidance for personal moments of decision in modern life. This is the fourth of a seven-class course and is entitled "Abigail: Affection in Direction." Held at The Chabad House, 5712 Lorraine Road and via Zoom at noon. Lunch will be served. Course fee: \$85; JWC Members \$80, textbooks included, or \$20 per class. For more information, contact Chanie Bukiet at 941-752-3030 or chanie@chabadofbradenton.com.

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

Brandeis National Committee's "Art in the Afternoon"

Please join Brandeis National Committee (BNC) for a fascinating multimedia presentation with music historian Charles Troy, who is back by popular demand! Troy returns to present the dramatic story behind the creation of George Gershwin's masterpiece "Porgy and Bess," which many regard as the bravest show ever produced on Broadway. This play, which debuted in 1935, portrayed many sensitive issues to achieve its present triumphant stature as the great American opera. The event will be held at University Park Country Club, Varsity Room, 7671 The Park Blvd., Sarasota, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The cost for BNC members is \$50 for the presentation and lunch, and \$65 for guests. For more information, contact Maris Margulies at 941-757-3012, grandmakabat@aol.com, or Janet Tolbert at 941-388-9624, janetrtoibert@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

Torah Study

Join us at 9:30 a.m. every Shabbat morning, when we examine the weekly Torah reading through the lens of contemporary commentary. You'll be amazed at how topical and relevant the Parsha (weekly Torah reading) ideas and concepts really are. Both mystical and pragmatic, these sessions will truly elevate your spirits and refine your view of the world around you. Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice. Contact Rabbi Sholom Schmerling at rabbichabadofvenice.com or 941-493-2770.

Temple Sinai Men's Club Safe Haven Program

Temple Sinai Men's Club presents "Safe Haven," a documentary about the only site in the United States to welcome refugees from Europe during the Holocaust. The internment camp located in Fort Ontario became home to 982 refugees in 1944 and this film documents the story, history and politics behind the refugees' arrival. "Safe Haven" writer, director and producer Paul Lewis will be on-site to answer questions and share information following the film screening. Event begins 6:30 p.m. at 4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Road (enter only from Proctor Road), Sarasota. Dessert will be served. \$10/Temple Sinai members or \$12/Nonmembers. To register, visit templesinai-sarasota.org.

Join us on
Thursday, February 22, 2024
for
**TBS Sisterhood's
1st Annual Game Day**
10:00 A.M.— 3:00 P.M.

Canasta, Bridge, Mah Jongg, Scrabble
or any game you would like to play
**Bring your friends and
your own game materials**
Lunch at 12:30
followed by additional playing time
or an exciting Trivia Game,
& other surprises!

Couvert \$36.00

For more information, contact
sisterhoodtbsfl@gmail.com
*Your contribution helps to support local food
banks, SPARCC, and the youth of our community*

**You must register and pre-pay by
February 14, 2024.
NO WALK-INS**

**Please make your \$36 check payable to
TBS Sisterhood att: Julie Kupersmith**

1050 South Tuttle Ave Bldg 2 Sarasota, FL
941.955.8121 - Info@tbssrq.org.org - www.tbssrq.org.org

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PROGRAM

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**For more info and upcoming events, text
STEP941 to 33222 or visit JFEDSRQ.org/STEP**

Sarasota Manatee ORT Chapter Luncheon

WED, FEB 21, 2024 | 11 AM-2 PM

Meadows Country Club

3101 Longmeadow, Sarasota



*Daniel Horowitz
presents
"The Funny Side
of Genealogy"*

You're invited! Daniel Horowitz, genealogy expert at MyHeritage, was the teacher and study guide editor of the family history project "Searching for My Roots" in Venezuela for 15 years. Daniel is involved in several crowdsource digitization and transcription projects and holds a board level position at the Israel Genealogy Research Association.

Tickets \$40, \$60, and \$80

TO ORDER TICKETS & LEARN MORE:
klapshein@aol.com or 941-302-1433

ORT AMERICA Impact
Through
Education
Florida



Benefiting the Kfar Youth Village in Israel and the ORT Ukraine Fund.

SUNDAY, FEB. 18

Mort Skirboll Jewish Film Festival –
The Catskills

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee



Join the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee for the 15th season of the Mort Skirboll Jewish Film Festival, 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 151 McIntosh Road, Sarasota. "The Catskills" takes audiences to the height of this Jewish vacation hot spot, recounting the history of an iconic time and place. Prior to the film, enjoy a nostalgic spread of classic Jewish delicacies. After the event, there will be a Q&A with director/producer Lex Gillespie. For more information, visit jfedsrq.org/events or contact Carol Dierksen at cdierksen@jfed.org or 941-263-4974. Tickets are \$50 per person.

Morning Tefillin Club Shacharit

We gather every Sunday at 9 a.m. to start our week together in a meaningful way. Coffee is served. Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice. Contact Rabbi Sholom Schmerling at rabbi@chabadofvenice.com or 941-493-2770.

JCV annual Jewish Food Festival

The Jewish Congregation of Venice will hold its annual and much-anticipated Jewish Food Festival on Sunday, Feb. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the synagogue. Featuring piled high pastrami, corned beef sandwiches and a variety of other homemade delicacies, including stuffed cabbage, cabbage and chicken soups, knishes, etc., plus delicious home-baked pastries, vendor booths, continuous entertainment and jewelry sale, the festival attracts local residents as well as tourists. No charge for parking or admission plus a free shuttle bus from Achieva Credit Union at 1485 East Venice Avenue. The JCV is located at 600 North Auburn Road (off East Venice Avenue) in Venice. For information, call 941-484-2022.

Finding Jewish Records in MyHeritage

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida invites people interested in Jewish genealogy to a program about finding Jewish records in MyHeritage website. This presentation will be led by Daniel Horowitz, genealogy expert at MyHeritage. Attendance is free. Everyone is welcome. The presentation will take place at Aviva (1951 N. Honore Avenue, Sarasota. Socializing begins at 12:45 p.m. and the presentation begins at 1 p.m. For reservations, contact Kim Sheintal at 941-302-1433 or klapshein@aol.com.

MONDAY, FEB. 19

Kol HaNeshama Offers Conversational Hebrew Class

Shalom! Az, Ma Chadash? Congregation Kol HaNeshama (KH) is continuing its popular conversational Hebrew class. Taught by Ari Delevie, a Sabra born in Haifa, the class gives the participant a good foundation for understanding and speaking Hebrew. Students discover words they already know, learn how to discuss foods, colors, occupations, and much, much more. Classes are held through Zoom every Monday, 10-11 a.m. The course is free for KH members and \$18 for guests. To register or for more information, please visit khsarasota.org or email office@khsarasota.org. Conducted via Zoom at 10 a.m. \$18 per guest.

TUESDAY, FEB. 20

Bagels, Lox & Shmooze

Enjoy the camaraderie of your Chabad family as we share lunch together! Noon at Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice; no charge — donations appreciated. For more information, call 941-493-2770 or go to www.chabadofvenice.com.

Sarasota Jewish Singles

The Sarasota Jewish Singles is an outreach program at Beth Israel of Longboat Key to give all Jewish singles in the Sarasota Manatee area the opportunity to meet other single men and women. The group meets once a month at 5:30 p.m. for laughter and a time to turn acquaintances into life-long friends. We hope you can join us for our February dinner meeting. To make a reservation or for more information, call or text Rosalyn Fleischer at 941-915-6631 or email Rozfleischer@gmail.com.

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SHALOMSRQ is your connection to all things Jewish in Sarasota-Manatee! From religious life to family programs, Jewish organizations, events and Federation news. FREE.

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21

ORT Luncheon: Funny Side of Genealogy

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee



ORT America and the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee invite you to a luncheon at The Meadows Country Club (3101 Longmeadow, Sarasota) at 11 a.m. with keynote speaker Daniel Horowitz from Israel to present the Funny Side of Genealogy. Tickets are \$40 (bronze level), \$60 (silver level) or \$80 (gold level). For reservations, mail check (payable to ORT America) by Feb. 15 to Ethel Gross 3919 Panola Lane, Sarasota, FL 34232. For details, contact Kim Sheintal at 941-302-1433 or klapshein@aol.com.

The History and Purpose of Sarasota’s Jewish Theatre

Temple Emanu-El’s Adult Education Committee welcomes Carole Kleinberg, Artistic Director of the Sarasota Jewish Theatre, to learn more about this innovative performing company and the history of Jewish theatre in Sarasota. The retired Director of Outreach and Education for Asolo Rep as well as the former Artistic Director of the Banyan Theatre, Ms. Kleinberg will also reminisce about the general history of Sarasota Jewry. The community is warmly invited! 10:30 a.m. Free. Temple Emanu-El, 151 McIntosh Road. Please register at sarasotatemple.org or contact Sharon Miles at sharon.g.miles@gmail.com.

National Council of Jewish Women Presents “Don Your Robe”

Find out why courts really do matter in your life! Learn the various levels of Florida and federal courts; learn how judges are appointed/elected, then “you be the judge” in our mock court. Presented by Laura Guren Rodriguez, NCJW Florida State Policy Advocate. Keiser University Auditorium, 6151 Lake Osprey Dr., Sarasota at 1 p.m. Members and guests are welcome. Not a member? Contact Pam Gordon to register at gordon.pam7@gmail.com.

The Idelson Library Film Matinee Series Presents “Orchestra of Exiles”

The Idelson Library Film Matinee Series continues with a special showing of “Orchestra of Exiles” (2012, 85 min.) at 1:15 p.m. Overcoming extraordinary obstacles, violinist Bronislaw Huberman moved Jewish musicians who had been fired by the Nazis to Palestine and formed a symphony that would become the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Refreshments, including popcorn, will be

provided courtesy of the TBS Men’s Club. In person in TBS’ Sainer Social Hall at 1050 S. Tuttle Ave. Bldg. 2, Sarasota. \$5 for TBS Members and \$8 for non-members. For more information, please visit templebethsholomfl.org/event. Contact the TBS office at 941-955-8121 or info@templebethsholomfl.org.

Temple Beth Israel’s Michael B. Eisenstat Miniversity Continues “Why We Say What We Pray”

“Why We Say What We Pray” continues to be the theme of Temple Beth Israel’s program of Jewish life and history with Rabbi Peter Kasdan examining the when, where, why and how of the prayers most familiar to us. The discussion also explores the roots and themes of the prayers themselves. Whether you speak Hebrew or not, this session will cast new light and meaning on what we too often may say by rote. The event, sponsored in part by Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, is held at Temple Beth Israel, 567 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, and starts at 2 p.m. Free to TBI members; nonmember fee is \$10. Space is limited so registration is encouraged. Visit www.longboatkeytemple.org, email office@longboatkeytemple.org or call 941-383-3428.

Hebrew School of the Arts

Judaism comes alive in our stimulating, friendly, upbeat environment. Our children ages 5-13 revel in the spirit of Jewish pride and identity inspired by our creative educators who build an appreciation of the joys, values and traditions of our heritage into every session. Along with the Aleph-Bais, holiday learning and Hebrew literacy, your child will embrace their heritage through music, art, STEAM, drama and cooking. Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice, 4:30-6:45 p.m. To give your child this special opportunity, register at www.chabadofvenice.com/hs. For more information, contact Rivka@chabadofvenice.com or 941-493-2770.

JLI — Advice for Life

The Rebbe’s spiritual leadership is the force behind the modern Chabad movement. Join us for a multimedia journey through the Rebbe’s practical wisdom on work, family, health and well-being. Discover how the Rebbe applied Jewish values to serve as a guide for finding deeper meaning in everyday life. The Chabad House, 5712 Lorraine Road and on Zoom at 7:30 p.m. Fee: \$90 (textbook included). For more information, call Rabbi Mendy Bukiet at 941-752-3030 or e-mail rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com.



WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Create a lasting legacy for the Jewish community.

Your support can sustain the Jewish Federation and its vital programs for generations to come. A commitment in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy will make a meaningful difference in the lives of Jews in need and ensure the continuity of Jewish values and traditions.

Join the LIFE & LEGACY® initiative today and become part of a legacy of generosity and vision, providing for the future of our Jewish community.



JFEDSRQ.org/Legacy

To discuss creating your Jewish legacy, contact Lisa Feinman 941.706.0034 or lfeinman@jfedsrq.org

THE EDUCATION CENTER
AT TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

Like College, Only Better!

Enjoy our Jewish programs in February & March 2024. Zoom and In Person available.

ONE-TIME LECTURES ON TUESDAYS FROM 3 - 4:30PM

HOW TO IDENTIFY "UNDER THE RADAR" ANTISEMITIC PROPAGANDA IN MAINSTREAM MEDIA

Discuss propaganda techniques used it public broadcasts.

Presented by Ruth Moss-Katsnelson – JANUARY 16

THE BIG LIE – JANUARY 30

The term the "big lie" originated with Hitler claiming that the Jews were responsible for Germany's loss of WWI. Discuss the history of the "big lie" and its significance in contemporary politics. Presented by Robert (Bob) Gary, J.D.

KOSHER HITS – FEBRUARY 27

Jewish versions of popular music from the past 70 years will be highlighted.

Presented by David Milberg (aka "Radio Dave")

COURSES & TWO-PART SERIES

TUESDAYS

ISRAEL AND PERSIA—A Biblical Journey

Rachel Zohar Dulin, Ph.D.

January 9-January 23 • 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

WEDNESDAYS

BIBLICAL BACKSTORIES

Ken Hanson, Ph.D.

February 7 and 14 • 1:00-2:30 PM

IRVING BERLIN AND HAROLD ARLEN

Dan Fine

February 7 and 14 • 3:00-4:15 PM

THURSDAYS

JEWISH/ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL

Susan Goldfarb and guest facilitators

February 8-29 • 2:00-5:00 PM

FRIDAYS

OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II: Lyrical Legend

Susan Benjamin

March 1 and 8 • 1:00-2:15 PM

92Y – A PRE-RECORDED PROGRAM

ISRAEL AT THE CROSSROADS: THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY – JANUARY 15 • 11 AM-12:30 PM

Four prominent journalists with differing views with talk show host Roni Kuban, will discuss the facts, myths and politics covering the state of Israel (pre-Hamas attack on October 7, 2023).

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENTS

NEIL DIAMOND: HITMAN! – Songs from one of the biggest hitmakers of the last 50 years accompanied by fascinating life stories will be presented by Susan Benjamin, musical biographer, Cantor Jay O'Brien, and musical director Robert Hanson.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 • 3-4:30 PM

A TRIBUTE TO UKRAINE – This classical music concert featuring Jewish composers such as Reinhold Glière, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Leonard Bernstein and more, will be performed by Steve Kramer, celebrated classical cellist.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 • 2:00-3:30 PM

For prices and a brochure listing over 160 lifelong learning programs, concerts, and special events, call 941-383-8222, email edcenter@longboatkeytemple.org or visit www.tbieducationcenter.org.

567 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL 34228

Temple Beth Israel is a not-for-profit organization as described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code: EIN 59-1970401.

SATURDAY, FEB. 24

Torah Study

Join us at 9:30 a.m. every Shabbat morning, when we examine the weekly Torah reading through the lens of contemporary commentary. You'll be amazed at how topical and relevant the Parsha (weekly Torah reading) ideas and concepts really are. Both mystical and pragmatic, these sessions will truly elevate your spirits and refine your view of the world around you. Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice. Contact Rabbi Sholom Schmerling at rabbi@chabadofvenice.com or 941-493-2770.

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

Federation at 65 Celebration

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

Join the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, 7-9:30 p.m. at The Ora, 578 McIntosh Road, Sarasota as we celebrate our 65th anniversary! Featuring the Keshet Chaim Dance Ensemble, an American-Israeli contemporary dance company dedicated to celebrating the inclusive spirit of Israeli culture and Judaism throughout the world. Keshet Chaim creates, develops and presents original choreography which fuses contemporary Israeli dance with Jewish folk dance traditions. Experience Sarasota's newest event center while reminiscing about our past, learning about our present and looking forward to our future. A dessert reception will follow the program. For information and tickets, visit <https://www.jfedsrq/events> or contact Carol at cdierksen@jfedsrq.org or 941-263-4974. Tickets are \$65 per person.

Chabad Men's Club Breakfast & Suncoast Jewish Music Ensemble Live

Join the Chabad Men's Club "Club 770" on Feb. 25 at 9 a.m. for a delightful breakfast followed by a talk about the joy of Klezmer by Steve Howard, then enjoy the special opportunity to hear the Suncoast Jewish music ensemble live. Open to both men and women. Chabad of Sarasota 7700 Beneva Road, Sarasota. The cost is \$7 for Club 770 members and \$10 for nonmembers. RSVP via email to Info@ChabadofSarasota.com.

Morning Tefillin Club Shacharit

We gather every Sunday at 9 a.m. to start our week together in a meaningful way. Coffee is served. Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice. Contact Rabbi Sholom Schmerling at rabbi@chabadofvenice.com or 941-493-2770.

MONDAY, FEB. 26

Kol HaNeshama Offers Conversational Hebrew Class

Shalom! Az, Ma Chadash? Congregation Kol HaNeshama (KH) is continuing its popular conversational Hebrew class. Taught by Ari Delevie, a Sabra born in Haifa, the class gives the participant a good foundation for understanding and speaking Hebrew. Students discover words they already know, learn how to discuss foods, colors, occupations, and much, much more. Classes are held through Zoom every Monday, 10-11 a.m. The course is free for KH members and \$18 for guests. To register or for more information, please visit khsarasota.org or email office@khsarasota.org. Conducted via Zoom at 10 a.m. \$18 per guest.

TUESDAY, FEB. 27

Bagels, Lox & Shmooze

Enjoy the camaraderie of your Chabad family as we share lunch together! Noon at Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice; no charge — donations appreciated. For more information, call 941-493-2770 or go to www.chabadofvenice.com.

Advice For Life: The Lubavitcher Rebbe's Guidance for Leading a More Purposeful Life

Join Rabbi Sholom Schmerling at 12:30 p.m. as he leads participants in finding deeper meaning and inner peace by applying Jewish values to everyday life through this special multimedia experience. For more information, call 941-493-2770 or www.chabadofvenice.com/JLI.

Every woman matters here.

The Women's Giving Circle ["Ma'agal Nashim"] celebrates and empowers women as funders, decision makers and agents of change. Every woman has an equal vote in directing the funds raised to make a collective impact in Israel. In the last ten years, we have distributed more than \$385,000 in grants to 88 nonprofits in Israel.

Our Mission

To advocate and fund health and education initiatives to change and improve the lives of at-risk women, children, and youth in Israeli communities.

Chairs

Roxie Black & Debbie Gordon

Now more than ever ... your sisters and their children in Israel need your support. There is still time to join!

Join Us Today!

Contact Jeremy Lisitza at 941.343.2113 or JeremyL@jfedsrq.org

WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

WGC

SARASOTA-MANATEE

Jewish Federation

of Sarasota-Manatee

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28

“Tevye in New York!” by Tom Dugan

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee



In this one-man theatrical performance, we are reunited with our old friend Tevye as he navigates a new life making his way through Ellis Island and settling on the Lower East Side of New York. As a new US citizen, Tevye continues to regale us with his one-way conversations with G-d as he deals with family clashes over women’s rights, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire and what it means to be Jewish. Enjoy Tevye’s humorous take on high-tech advances like automobiles, electricity and the telephone! To register, visit jfedrsq.org/events. Held 7:30-9:30 p.m. at The Ora, 578 McIntosh Road, Sarasota. For information, contact Lauren Cohen at lcohen@jfedrsq.org or 941-706-0027. General Admission: \$36, Premier Seating: \$54; Sponsor a student: \$18.

Temple Beth Israel’s Michael B. Eisenstat Miniversity Continues “Why We Say What We Pray”

This month’s theme of “Why We Say What We Pray,” presented by Rabbi Peter Kasdan, continues to examine a key component of Jewish life and history. Sponsored by Temple Beth Israel (TBI) and The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, participants will discuss the when, where, why and how of the prayers most familiar to us. The discussion also explores the roots and themes of the prayers themselves. Whether you speak Hebrew or not, this session will cast new light and meaning on what we too often may say by rote. The event is held at Temple Beth Israel, 567 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key and starts at 2 p.m. The lecture is free to TBI members; the nonmember fee is only \$10. Space is limited so registration is encouraged. To register or for more information, visit www.longboatkeytemple.org, email office@longboatkeytemple.org or call 941-383-3428.

Hebrew School of the Arts

Judaism comes alive in our stimulating, friendly, upbeat environment. Our children ages 5-13 revel in the spirit of Jewish pride and identity inspired by our creative educators who build an appreciation of the joys, values and traditions of our heritage into every session. Along with the Aleph-Bais, holiday learning and Hebrew literacy, your child will embrace their heritage through music, art, STEAM, drama and cooking. Chabad of Venice, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice, 4:30-6:45 p.m. To give your child this special opportunity, register at

www.chabadofvenice.com/hs. For more information, contact Rivka@chabadofvenice.com or 941-493-2770.

Temple Sinai’s Charting the Lost Continent

Temple Sinai and the Sarasota Jewish Chorale present Charting the Lost Continent, an exciting, original, thought-provoking and humorous production, based on the poetry of award-winning, Sarasota poet Linda Albert. It explores the thoughts, feelings and wit of people as they reflect on the seasons of life, the joys, struggles and insights over a lifetime, and the journey that brought them to the present moment. Event begins 7 p.m. at 4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Road (enter only from Proctor Road), Sarasota. \$18. To register, visit templesinai-sarasota.org.

JLI — Advice for Life

The Rebbe’s spiritual leadership is the force behind the modern Chabad movement. Join us for a multimedia journey through the Rebbe’s practical wisdom on work, family, health and well-being. Discover how the Rebbe applied Jewish values to serve as a guide for finding deeper meaning in everyday life. The Chabad House, 5712 Lorraine Road and via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. Fee: \$90 (textbook included). For more information, call Rabbi Mendy Bukiet at 941-752-3030 or e-mail rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com.

THURSDAY, FEB. 29

People of the Book Author Lecture Series: Tom Dugan – “Wiesenthal”



Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

If you loved Tom Dugan in “Tevye in New York!,” here’s a second chance to see him in person as he shares his unique take on famed Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal. Wiesenthal was a Holocaust survivor who became internationally famous for bringing to justice over 1,000 Nazi war criminals. In his book “Wiesenthal,” Dugan brings to life scenes from the book including the day of his retirement, inviting one last group of students into his office. Join us from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Sholom, 1050 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota. For more information and tickets, visit <https://www.jfedrsq/POTB> or contact Carol at cdierksen@jfedrsq.org or 941-263-4974. Tickets are \$25 per person.



INTIMATE APPAREL

INTIMATE APPAREL
By LYNN NOTTAGE
Directed by AUSTENE VAN

FEB 28–APRIL 18

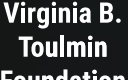
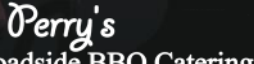
Contains mature content and language.

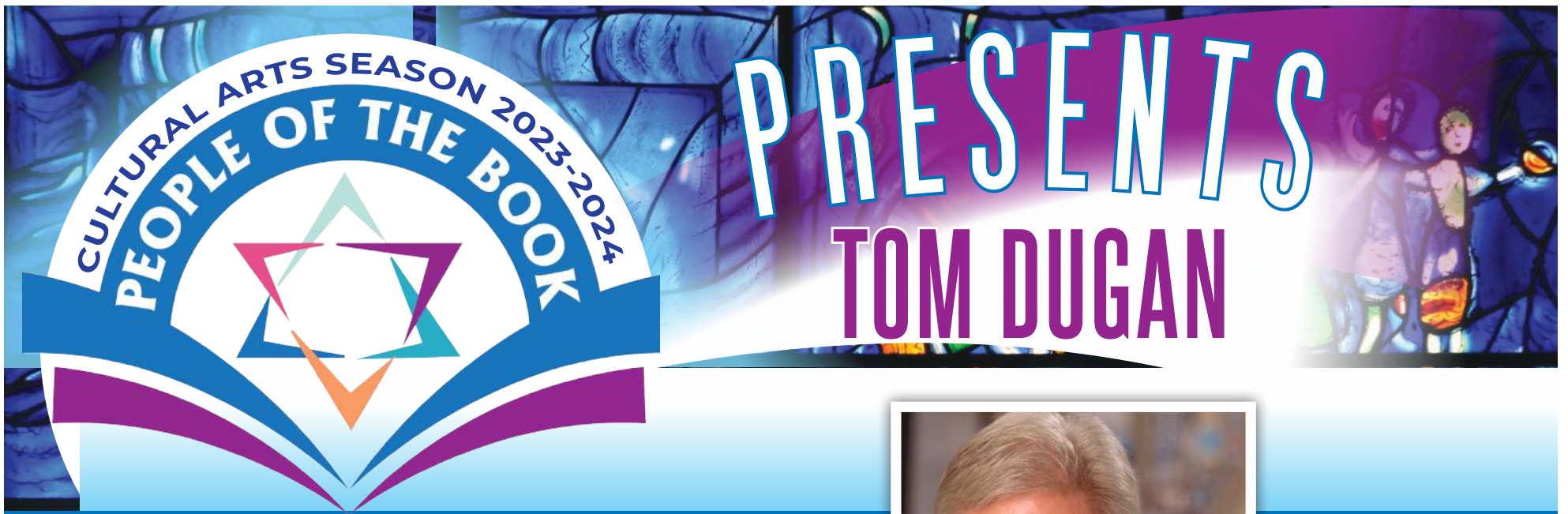
Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage returns to Asolo Rep with *Intimate Apparel*, a searing, sensual, and powerful story of forbidden romance. Esther spends her days sewing corsets for other women but hasn’t found love for herself. When she receives a letter from a Barbadian man working on the Panama Canal, Esther kindles an exchange that leads to marriage with a stranger, even while her heart is drawn to a Jewish shop owner who’s promised to another woman. Nottage’s lyrical and heart wrenching play is a modern classic about the power of human connection.

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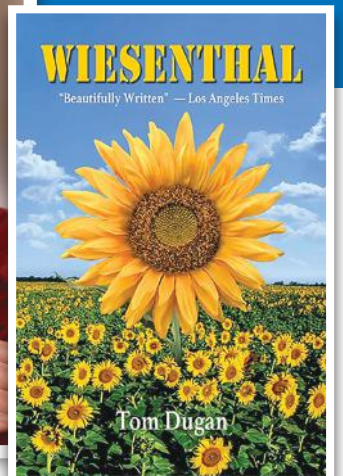


FEBRUARY 29, 2024 • 2:00PM

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM • SARASOTA

Dubbed by critics “a national treasure,” Tom Dugan is a popular Los Angeles-based playwright/actor who, for over 25 years, has been honored with many awards and nominations (New York Drama Desk, New York Outer Critics Circle, Los Angeles Ovation, Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, and Los Angeles Stage Scene).

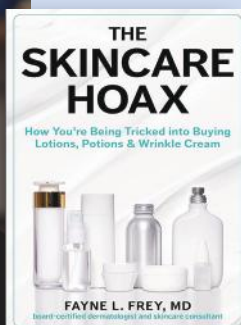
Dugan’s award-winning one-man show *Wiesenthal* tells the story of the legendary Nazi Hunter as he is about to retire, closing down his Vienna office of 58 years. Dugan addresses the audience in select scenes from his book *Wiesenthal* as if we are American students on a visit, and takes us on a journey filled with history, geography, and tales of war criminals.



ALL EVENTS IN PERSON ALL EVENTS IN PERSON ALL EVENTS IN PERSON

MARCH 8, 2024 • 2:00PM

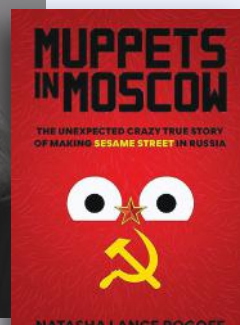
FAYNE FREY



An exposé on the marketing tactics that convince us to buy over-the-counter skincare products, the well-kept secrets of the industry, and recommendations for easy and affordable regimens.

MARCH 19, 2024 • 7:00PM

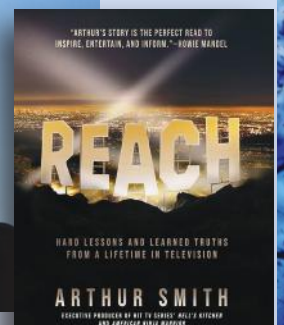
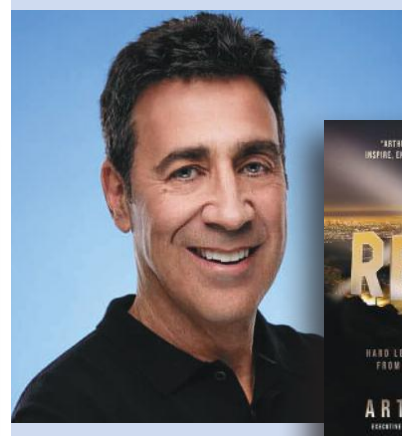
NATASHA ROGOFF



The author, a young Jewish-American TV producer, attempts to produce the series in Moscow and faces bombings, assassinations, and the takeover of the production office as cultural clashes touch every aspect of the production.

APRIL 17, 2024 • 7:00PM

ARTHUR SMITH



Behind-the-scenes stories of pivotal moments in sports and TV history, including wild anecdotes from Marlon Brando, Gordon Ramsay, Magic Johnson, Little Richard, Wayne Gretzky, Simon Cowell and more.

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