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JEWISH news

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Local Maccabi Athletes Win Medals in Pittsburgh



Teens from the Florida Gulf Coast at the JCC Maccabi Games in Pittsburgh, included Alana Duffy, center, who competed with her volleyball team, The Spikers, comprised of teens from Alberta, Palisades, and Sarasota. This was the first time that the games were held on a college campus where the youth played on NCAA level courts and fields. **See Story on Page 2**

Let's Face the Year Ahead with Courage

By Shepard Englander,
Chief Executive Officer



Englander

Every year, as Rosh Hashanah approaches, like Jews all over the world, I reflect on the past year and commit to who I want to be in the year ahead. Candidly, this year, I have grave concerns about threats to the Jewish people globally, but I am confident that our local communities can support each other through these distressing times.

Antisemitism has turned deadly on American soil. In recent months, we have seen Jews murdered at Washington, D.C.'s Capital Jewish Museum and in Boulder, Colorado simply for being Jewish. America's promise of religious freedom feels more fragile than ever.

Meanwhile, Israel continues to struggle through the longest war in its history. No clear plan has been articulated to end it soon. Maddeningly, Hamas has made it impossible for Israel to defeat their terrorist army without untold civilian casualties. Israel has been unfairly smeared as a pariah nation on the stage

Continued on Page 3

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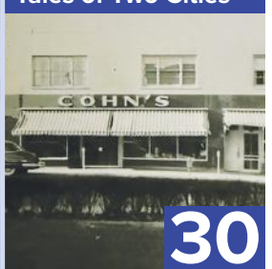
israel interest	19
community	21
jewish interest	27
happenings	33
focus on youth	39
commentary	42
life cycle	43

Survivors Art Show



21

Tales of Two Cities



30

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Youth Athletes Have Success at International Competition

By Federation Staff

We are so proud of our Florida Gulf Coast 2025 JCC Maccabi team! Our four swimmers (Leah Abrams, Jacoby Corn, Timerie Corn, and Liza Friedman) brought home many medals, and our soccer players: Gideon Hersh, Eitan Neeman, and Avi Shalev won the gold with their team!

When learning that JCC Maccabi did not have enough gold medals for all athletes, Jacoby Corn donated back 6 of his gold medals so that the Israeli swimmers could have them to take back home after the games. What a mensch! (He will receive his replacement medals at a later date.)

All 11 athletes, including Alana Duffy (Volleyball), Ansley Gross and Micah Lifrak (Basketball), and our Star Reporter, Jake Feldman, showed incredible talent and amazing team spirit.

See more photos from the JCC Maccabi Games at jfedsrq.org/Maccabi_2025

The entire delegation is excited to participate again next year. The 2026 games will be held concurrently in Kansas City and Toronto. When Ansley Gross was asked what city she would like to go to next year, her reply was, "Can't we do both?" I think that sums up what a great experience these teens had.

We are eternally grateful to our volunteer Delegation Head, Mark Sharff, who worked tirelessly to ensure that our teens had this life-changing experience.

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This Year ... Continued from Page 1

of world opinion. American Jews are increasingly blamed, intimidated, and attacked for Israel's war to defend itself from Hamas after October 7.

This leaves me feeling more vulnerable than I can remember. At the same time, supporting each other can be harder now because our ability to listen, really listen, to someone who disagrees with us is dwindling, especially when it comes to Israel or politics.

The Talmud teaches us that the worst calamities in Jewish history, including the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, were caused by "sinat chinam," baseless hatred, that divided the Jewish people. Baseless hatred happens when we stop seeing those with opposing views as fellow human beings deserving of respect and dignity.

That's why I believe so deeply in the role **Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee** (JFSM) plays. The community we nurture welcomes people with different views and makes sure that no one feels alone. This community enables us to connect, belong, and enjoy our traditions even when the world outside feels hostile.

Last year, our Insights and Inspiration speaker series brought global thought leaders to help us understand the threats facing the Jewish world. This year, as we will continue these important conversations, we commit ourselves to listen respectfully, even when we disagree.

In the challenging year ahead, JFSM will continue empowering the 40,000-plus members of our Jewish community to live safe, vibrant Jewish lives and participate proudly in public life.

The Federation's superb professional team and our expanded Greenspon Campus for Jewish Life will enable us to deliver on our five pillars:

- **PROTECT:** Provide top-level security so Jewish people can feel safe and unafraid to gather, participate, and celebrate our traditions openly.
- **ADVOCATE:** Share Jewish views and impact public opinion on Jewish concerns, including Israel and antisemitism.
- **ENGAGE:** Reach out to our growing and diverse Jewish households and offer pathways into the community.
- **INSPIRE:** Expose Jews and non-Jews to the richness of Jewish culture, tradition, and Israel, while strengthening Jewish pride.
- **SUPPORT:** Build long-term financial resources to advance Federation mission priorities and support Jewish life locally, nationally, and in Israel.

> **"Let's show the world what a connected, joyful, Jewish community looks like, even during tough times."**

Delivering on these pillars will offer opportunities to embrace the joys of being Jewish: the friendships, meaning, and traditions, that make life richer. Let's gather for Shabbat dinners and invite others using our cutting-edge platform **JFRIENDSsrq.org**. Let's learn together through AdultEd@JFed with Rabbi Jennifer Singer and Dr. Liat Alon [see **jfedsrq.org/events**]. Let's laugh together at our February 1 special event with comedian Elon Gold. Let's play tennis, pickle ball, basketball, and join in group fitness to stay healthy together. Register at **SunCourtSports.com.** Let's show the world what a connected, joyful Jewish community looks like, even during tough times.

Part of our New Year's tradition is to apologize for oversights during the past year. So, if the JFSM has ever made you feel alone or left out, I apologize. This year, we will try even harder to welcome all with warmth and openness.

The Jewish people have faced endless threats over thousands of years. A secret to our unlikely survival has been our ability to recognize but set aside internal differences and find a path to safety together. Despite the many challenges ahead, let's give each other the courage and inspiration to make this a year of friendship, learning, and growth.

From all of us at the Jewish Federation, we wish you a year of health and happiness. L'shanah tovah!



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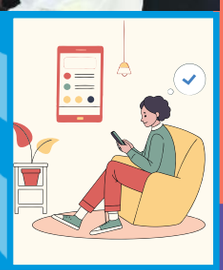
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SunCourt Sports Now Welcoming Members

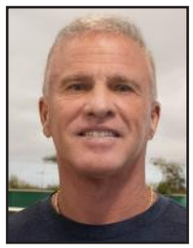
By Shepard Englander, Chief Executive Officer

To serve one of America's fastest growing Jewish communities, the **Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee** (JFSM) continually innovates new ways to connect.

Next month, we are proudly opening the Larry Greenspon Sports Complex, which will be the home of SunCourt Sports, a premier tennis, pickleball, and fitness community.

Larry Greenspon's vision and generosity that created the Greenspon Sports Complex is based on the lifelong friendships he made on tennis courts, by participating in the JCC Maccabi Games in Israel and by the impact of the Israel Tennis and Education Centers. When he dedicated the Greenspon Campus for Jewish Life, he envisioned that the campus would combine Jewish community with sports to build lasting relationships.

SunCourt Sports advances JFSM's mission by ensuring our youth programs have premier facilities while creating new pathways for community engagement and connection. The Greenspon Sports Complex will provide needed facilities for our Camp Yonnie summer day camp and for our future after-school youth programs. SunCourt Sports will generate funding to keep these facilities in pristine condition and to support our youth programming. Another example of our youth programs is fielding a team in the national youth JCC Maccabi games. Last month, JFSM was excited to bring 11 teens to the JCC Maccabi games in Pittsburgh.


Lederman

We are thrilled to have found the perfect director for SunCourt Sports: Paul Lederman. His warm, direct style will ensure that SunCourt Sports will be a wonderful place to meet new people and make friends.

Paul's remarkable track record of launching sports communities includes being the founding director of the tennis and fitness campus at Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club 27 years ago, which he grew it into one of Florida's premier athletic destinations. Paul oversaw the development of

Continued on Next Page

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Contact Community Editor, Heidi Lurie, hlurie@jfedsrq.org with feedback or questions.

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580 McIntosh Road
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Email: jewishnews@jfedsrq.org
Website: **jfedsrq.org**

STAFF

BOARD CHAIR
Deb Kabinoff

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Shepard Englander

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
Kim Adler

COMMUNITY EDITOR
Heidi Lurie

ADVERTISING SALES
Marc Kaufman – 941-552-6307

PROOFREADERS
Paulette Kessler-Westerman, Elliot Ofsowitz, Linda Stern

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Check It Out: Program Guide Arriving Soon!

By Kim Adler,
Chief Operating Officer

It's almost time for our program season to begin. While the staff has been busy developing a mix of events designed to inspire and motivate you, the marketing team has been designing the new 2025-2026 Program Guide to help you navigate the variety of offerings.

The guide will be delivered to homes beginning in early September. Filled with some of your favorite programs, such as our People of the Book Series and the Mort Skirboll Jewish Film Series, you'll also learn about new opportunities such as our AdultEd@JFed offerings. As part of Adult Ed, we will be bringing back the ever-popular Melton Adult Education program for the first time in many years.



The program guide is intended to provide you the highlights of the programs, just enough to whet your whistle, so to speak, and will connect you to our website to learn more and register. You can visit **jfedsrq.org/programguide** to see a digital version while you wait for your hard copy to arrive. With so many exciting events on the horizon, we will be looking for community volunteers to help with registration, ushering, setup, and more. If you're interested in getting involved, please visit **jfedsrq.org/volunteer** to register to help. Opportunities will be listed throughout the year as they become available.

We look forward to seeing you at our insightful and inspiring events season!

SunCourt Sports ... Continued from Previous Page

the entire campus, designing the racquet sports, fitness and aquatics programs, and launching their day camp program. He previously was ranked the number one tennis player in Florida and was named "Tampa Bay's Best Group Teaching Tennis Professional."

Paul is not just a tennis legend. He is an inspiring leader and community builder who will make SunCourt Sports a warm, fun experience for everyone. His students have said that he is not only a superb tennis instructor but also became a life coach for many. He and his wife Aviva live in Lakewood Ranch.

SunCourt will have games and classes for everyone from seasoned athletes to first-time participants. It will offer premier level play at a fraction of the cost of a country club, including: the region's only red-clay tennis courts, pickleball and basketball courts, group fitness, and youth programming.

Next summer, SunCourt Sports will add the Shugar Pool Club, a resort-style aquatic center. This will enable SunCourt to offer water aerobics and water Zumba to its group fitness offerings. This unique aquatics center is being dedicated by Ronnie Shugar, a philanthropist whose childhood friendships at his Los Angeles neighborhood Jewish Community Center (JCC) helped shape him and his Jewish identity.

When SunCourt Sports opens in October, it will welcome not only the Jewish community but also our friends and neighbors throughout Sarasota-Manatee. Whether you're here year-round or just returning for the season, we invite you to become part of something joyful and welcoming.

To learn more or for membership visit **SunCourtSports.com**.

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Learning & Engagement Team Shares Offerings

By Dr. Liat Alon,
Chief Learning & Engagement Officer

As if they were making sure we have the recipe for resilience, our sages shared that "the world stands on three things: on Torah, on works, and on kindness to others" (Pirkei Avot 1:2). Reminding us we rely on solidarity, knowledge, and action to ensure our community remains safe and strong. Our sages also advised us on how to get there: through study, action, and engagement.

For those closely following the **Jewish Federation of Sarasota Manatee** (JFSM), the surge in activity within our Learning and Engagement Department will not come as a surprise. As our community expands rapidly, and with the challenges caused by the war with Hamas and the spike in antisemitism, the demand for meaningful educational and communal programs grows fast, as well.

Education, engagement, and solidarity, core elements in Jewish tradition, take on heightened importance in times of crisis. Responding to the need and taking a leading role in our community, JFSM has intensified its investment in educational initiatives.

This summer, we were fortunate to welcome back Rabbi Jennifer Singer to JFSM. Beginning her Federation journey two decades ago, Rabbi Singer has since been ordained, served as a beloved congregational rabbi at Kol HaNeshama, and earned respect as a gifted teacher in Sarasota-Manatee. Now as Learning and Engagement Manager, Rabbi Singer is taking the lead launching our AdultEd@JFed program. Her classes will span from the fascinating course on "Demons, Devils, and More" to "Making Prayer Real." Rabbi Singer's courses will be complemented by a renewed partnership with Melton, offering their classes as well.

As our vision expands, we hope to see more leading staff members offering learning opportunities. Bette Zaret, our Holocaust Education Initiative lead, now with a Master's in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, will contribute. In November, I will offer a class on Israeli television and cinema followed in the spring by a course on the lesser-known history of Jews in the Middle East. AdultEd@JFed will also provide an opportunity for JFSM to partner with leading local educators and we hope to see our Rabbis and scholars participating in the program.

Another wonderful addition to JFSM is Bethany Leinweber, beloved educator, rabbinical student, and community leader, who joined us as Director of Youth and Family. Leading Camp Yonnie through a transformative summer even before our new facilities debut next year, Leinweber's focus will now expand to teens and families. Boosting up our PJ Library and STEP teen programs, we hope to see Leinweber contribute to AdultEd@JFed.

Finally, as we await the installation of world-class art at the innovative Chaifetz Holocaust Memorial and Education Center, we are thoughtfully designing on-site programs and materials that will offer a unique experience for students, teachers, and the wider regional community.

Effective education and engagement demand long-term commitment and unwavering dedication. Rooted in our core mission Federation remains steadfast in its commitment to making the community smarter, stronger, and more informed. We are dedicated to delivering the best that our Jewish heritage, culture, and knowledge has to offer to you, and invite everybody to join us in these enriching programs and courses.

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Rosh Hashanah Is a Time to Connect with Community

By Rabbi Jennifer Singer, Jewish Learning & Engagement Manager


Rabbi Singer

When I was a kid, we prepared for Rosh Hashanah by buying new clothes for synagogue. Nowadays, we buy our kids new clothes for the school year and don't think much about "the holidays."

In fact, most Jewish people in our area neither belong to a synagogue nor attend High Holiday services. As a community rabbi, this makes me a little sad, especially when people tell me that it's just too expensive to join a temple or pay for High Holiday tickets. That is not always true! If you're interested in a particular synagogue, call. You may be pleasantly surprised.

But let's be realistic. You're probably not going to do that. If you plan to stay home but want to stay connected to your Jewish heritage, there are many, many options, both for adults and children. If you're a PJ Library parent, you already have nice resources at your fingertips, so look through what you have.

Before I start offering specific options, keep in mind the point of the holiday: It's a time for reflection, repentance, and renewal. Keep in mind the three R's and you can't go wrong.

Since everyone spends so much time on our screens, I'll begin with the obvious: YouTube. You don't have to remember a list of videos; do what I did, Google "YouTube videos Rosh Hashanah." The first thing that popped up was a cute video from Bimbam, designed for kids. Spend a few minutes scrolling, and choose something you can watch as a family.

No kids in the house? There are YouTube videos and links for you, too. Just beware of falling down a rabbit hole and finding yourself hours later, still at your computer scrolling through and visiting the countless offerings.

If you're looking for something in print for adults, try the book, "Your Guide to the Jewish Holidays," by Cantor Matt Axelrod. It's designed for people who don't know much (or anything) about the holidays, and talks about both rituals and traditional foods.

Speaking of food, you can't go wrong with cutting up apples to dip in honey. Other traditional foods for Rosh Hashanah are a round challah, pomegranates, honey cake, and more. Go to **MyJewishLearning.com** and click on "celebrations," you'll find recipes, interesting articles, and more. (Remember: No honey for children under one year old).

This year, Rosh Hashanah begins on the evening of Monday, September 22. Why not plan a dinner with friends? Wish each other happy new year, and talk about how you'd like to make next year even better than the past year.

So much of Jewish practice includes being involved in community. If the formal Jewish community isn't part of your life, make your own community. Reach out to other Jewish people in your neighborhood, or someone you know from work. They might be just like you and looking to create their own community.

Lastly, keep in mind that many of us are in relationships with people who aren't Jewish. I've learned that when people ask their non-Jewish partner what they would like to do about holidays, they are often pleasantly surprised. They might be curious. They might be anxious to learn. They might want to support you in your Jewish observance. Don't assume; have the conversation.

There are enough hard things going on in the world. Being Jewish shouldn't be stressful. Go ahead and feel good about the holiday, and take advantage of all the resources and tools you can use to create a meaningful holiday for yourself and your loved ones.



Empowering Educators and Honoring Memory

By Bette Zaret,
Holocaust Education Initiative


Zaret

At a time when antisemitism is resurgent and Holocaust distortion is increasingly becoming a problem, the **Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee** (JFSM) is taking bold, necessary steps to ensure that teachers are not just teaching history but helping our future generations learn what it means to be upstanders today.

This July, the Federation hosted its 2025 Holocaust Educator Summer Institute, a three-day professional learning experience designed to give middle and high school teachers the tools, context, and confidence to address one of history's most painful chapters with both clarity and compassion. The event underscored the Federation's deep commitment to Holocaust education and to supporting those on the front lines of that work. The institute prioritized immersive, hands-on learning, and focused on two dimensions of Holocaust history: teaching difficult topics in emotionally safe ways and exploring the circumstances and experiences of Jews in the Soviet Union during the Holocaust and Cold War.

Participants engaged in lectures led by leading scholars, including Dr. Shay Pilnik, whose book, "The Ravine of Memory," offers new insights into how the genocide of Jews in areas under the Soviet Union has been remembered or suppressed, as a result of different political needs. Educators also visited the new Chaifetz Holocaust Memorial and Education Center, located on the JFSM campus, and participated in workshops modeling best practices for teaching genocide, antisemitism, and atrocity crimes.

Dr. Bernadette Bennett and Dr. Mary Johnson led an in-depth discussion about the emotional intelligence and structural support needed to navigate sensitive material in a meaningful, trauma-informed way. They introduced a practical guide to teaching genocide and atrocity crimes to middle and high school students in today's classrooms.





Above, left: JFSM Holocaust Educator Summer Institute-Class of 2025. Above, right: A Holocaust Memorial sketch created by Summer Institute attendees.

This year's Institute also focused on memory as a subject matter. We addressed questions about the preservation and transmission of memory. We heard from Holocaust Survivors and their families, drew from a variety of sources, and practiced collecting and documenting personal memorials. Doing so, our teachers did not just glean information and knowledge but built a community. Across counties and classrooms, the group became allies and advocates for truth in education.

Joe Baker from Buffalo Creek Middle School, shared, "It was not a sit and get. We took part in many activities that helped us reflect, share, and learn how to use the strategies through hands-on learning. The reflection on why we teach about the Holocaust was emotional and so important." And Liz Ballard, from

Continued on Page 13

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Advanced Planning Makes Holiday Services Safer

By Tom Baugher,
Community Security Director


Baugher

Safety must be a component of every organization's culture, especially a house of worship. With the High Holidays, organizations have an opportunity to revisit safety and security plans and procedures and to familiarize clergy, staff, and members of those measures. On a regular basis, I review these, and additional, best practices with each synagogue's standing Community Security Committee. These Committees are comprised of representatives from each organization or facility in our **Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee** (JFSM) area. I would like to share a few high points with you in this article.

First, every synagogue has unique security concerns and challenges. Having a local security committee (consisting of lay and professional leadership) helps ensure the safety and comfort of the entire congregation. In this local security committee, one person is assigned to lead the group so there is continuity, accountability, and strong coordination.

Next, we develop a security strategy beginning with understanding the security related strengths and weaknesses of the facility, grounds, and organization. One of my main tasks as Community Security Director is conducting all-hazard facility safety assessments on each organization's building and grounds. A security strategy addresses the strengths and weaknesses identified in the assessment.

One strategy is having a single main entrance that can be locked and monitored. Members and guests can still be warmly welcomed, while vigilant attention is paid to safety and security matters, and people are monitored for behavior that may indicate a security risk.

Security requires diligence and attention, and security plans need to be practiced regularly to be effective during an emergency. Staff and ushers must be trained to recognize suspicious activity and know how to respond. As many people as possible should be trained in what to do in an emergency, from fire and natural disasters, to personal threats. All members of the community have an important role in training, including: clergy, staff, lay leaders, volunteers, and participants.

One of the biggest investments an organization can make is hiring off-duty police or professional private security. I am happy to report that JFSM has been able to provide and facilitate grants to our synagogues, Chabads, and schools to pay for a portion of these services. We are very fortunate to have committed and professional law enforcement officers in the Sarasota and Manatee area. An important duty of mine is to familiarize law enforcement with our facilities so they know the layout and how the community uses the space. In an emergency, a few seconds saved by such familiarity can save lives.

Every facility should have and maintain functional automatic defibrillation devices, fire extinguishers, first aid and Stop the Bleed kits in places where people regularly gather.

Now, here is what you can do on an individual level to ensure the collective security. First, be aware of your surroundings. Know where the emergency exits are located, and take note of unusual behaviors, unattended objects, unexplained odors, or vehicles traveling at abnormal speeds or patterns. If you see something suspicious,

Continued on Page 13

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Temple Emanu-El welcomes families to observe the High Holy Days with uplifting, spiritual, and meaningful services — *at no cost*!



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Thursday, October 2
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Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

Camp Yonnie Expands to Prepare for 2026

By Kim Adler, Chief Operating Officer and Bethany Leinweber, Camp Yonnie Director

Camp Yonnie just closed the books on its first full summer season. Having hosted 111 campers over the an 8-week period, we are happy to share just a few highlights of what made it a success for campers, parents, and staff:

The "Siyum Yom," end of day, gathering each afternoon was the highlight of many of the campers' days, complete with a song session recap of our amazing day and discussing what's coming next!

We are so grateful for the businesses and community partners that made Camp Yonnie both educational and engaging: Pure Imagination Crazy Cooks/Art on a Cart, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, Circus Arts Conservatory of Sarasota, School of Rock, and many more.

Exciting field trips allowed our campers to try new experiences while challenging their minds and their bodies.

This is just a touch of what we offered this past summer. One of the best outcomes was the development of a team of incredibly competent, enthusiastic, supportive, kind, and respectful counselors who did everything in their power to ensure an amazing summer for the campers. We hope they will continue to be part of the Camp Yonnie experience in seasons to come.

As we begin to plan for 2026, we will not rest on the laurels of these successes. As the Greenspon Campus for Jewish Life continues to expand, Camp Yonnie will benefit from many new features design to enhance the camper experience. We will open the Stone Lodge, which will be dedicated for use by Camp Yonnie throughout the summer and during school break camps, as well as outdoor playing fields, a brand new playground, shaded play areas, and the Shugar Pool, which we are working diligently to open by June 2026, so that our campers can swim on campus for instructional and open swim!





Children enjoyed games and treats throughout the 2025 Camp season.

These new offerings for 2026 and beyond will help to set Camp Yonnie apart as not just the best Jewish day camp in our area, but as a transformative day camp of choice for all families, regardless of background or religious affiliation. Camp Yonnie fits so perfectly with the Federation's mission to engage young families in the joys of Jewish tradition and Israeli culture. Hand in hand with PJ Library, our Shapiro Teen Engagement

Continued on Page 13



Join us for a rare and powerful opportunity to hear from

General Yoav Gallant

on the second Remembrance Day of October 7

Sunday, October 12 ✡ 3 PM ✡ The Ora

TICKETS $50

A decorated commander and enduring symbol of resilience, Gen. Yoav Gallant served as Israel's Minister of Defense during one of the most challenging chapters in the nation's history. He led Israel's defense throughout the Swords of Iron War, a seven-front war declared in response to the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023.

In one of his few public appearances in the U.S., Gallant will speak about October 7, Israel's evolving security challenges, and what comes next. Let us come together — strong, united, and unwavering in our commitment to Israel.

Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

Fore more information, please visit **JFEDSRQ.org/events**

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CHAZZAN
Cliff Abramson

Shana Tova

We welcome you to join us for the High Holy Days.

The complete schedule is available on our website and many services are open to all without charge.

Scan for details

Connect, Grow and Celebrate with us!

September (non-holiday) Worship Services

Sept 5th 5 pm - Open House and Welcome Reception
6 pm - Rhythm & Jews Erev Shabbat Service
Sept 12th, 26th 6 pm - Erev Shabbat Service
Sept 19th 7 pm - Erev Shabbat Service (Student Participation Service)



OPEN HOUSE
Sept 5, 5 pm

4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34231
SinaiSRQ.org • (941) 924-1802

Empowering Educators ... Continued from Page 9

Pine View High School, added, "I don't think I've ever been that engrossed in professional development. The welcoming atmosphere broke down all inhibitions. I felt a kinship among the teachers. I'd love to bring my students to the Federation campus when the memorial opens. What a beautiful and inspiring vision."

This Institute is one of many ways the JFSM is turning remembrance into responsibility. Through its Holocaust education initiatives and robust professional development programs, the Federation empowers teachers not only to teach the past but to help shape a more just and informed future.

To learn more about upcoming professional learning opportunities and educational initiatives, visit **jfedsrq.org** or contact Holocaust Education Specialist Bette Zaret at **bzaret@jfedsrq.org.**

Advanced Planning ... Continued from Page 10

say something actionable. Tell a staff member, usher, or on-scene law enforcement or security. If an emergency situation does develop commit yourself to action. Do not hesitate.

Second, if you are so inclined to take a more focused role in your synagogue or Chabad's security, meet with your designated Community Security Committee representative and ask how you can assist them. These dedicated volunteers are my force-multipliers and are the experts on the daily security functions for your house of worship.

Finally, please take an upcoming Safe SRQ training. You can find a list of training dates and subjects at **jfedsrq.org/events**.

Camp Yonnie Expands ... Continued from Page 11

Program (STEP), and the JCC Maccabi Games, our Federation is committed to inspiring the next generation to embrace their Jewish identity with pride!

Thank you to our 2025 Camp Sponsors, Shugar Soapworks and Freeman Orthodontics, as well as Geri and Ron Yonover, and the Stone Family Foundation, for making Camp Yonnie a reality.

To learn more about Camp Yonnie, visit **CampYonnie.org** or contact Bethany Leinweber at **bleinweber@jfedsrq.org.**







An Evening with Israeli General Yoav Gallant

By Dr. Liat Alon,
Chief Learning & Engagement Officer

On the solemn second Remembrance Day of October 7, we will gather in Sarasota for an evening with General Yoav Gallant, a man whose life has been defined by service, reflection, and courage. Gallant, former Minister of Defense during the devastating Hamas-led assault of October 7, 2023, commanded Israel's naval commandos, led the Israel Defense Force's (IDF) Southern Command, and guided the nation through existential threats and internal divisions during his tenure as defense minister from 2022 until his dismissal in November 2024.

In the aftermath of October 7, Gallant emerged as a clarion voice calling on the Israeli government to prioritize hostage diplomacy and to commission a rigorous formal investigation into the intelligence and security lapses that led to that catastrophic day. He spoke bluntly: "There is and will not be any atonement for abandoning the captives. It will be a mark of Cain on the forehead of Israeli society and those leading this mistaken path." He argued that painful compromises were not only unavoidable, but morally necessary if the State of Israel was to fulfill its covenantal duty to bring home hostages: soldiers and civilians, alive or deceased.


Gallant

Gallant's principles eventually clashed with Prime Minister Netanyahu's government and politics. Netanyahu cited an "erosion of trust" as reason for his ouster, but Gallant made clear that the real fissures lay in his stand for transparency, military conscription reform, and urgency in hostage negotiations, stances that challenged Netanyahu's far-right coalition partners. In his farewell address, Gallant declared, "My priorities … remained constant and clear throughout nearly fifty years of public service: The State of Israel; the IDF and the security establishment; and only afterward, everything else, including my personal future."

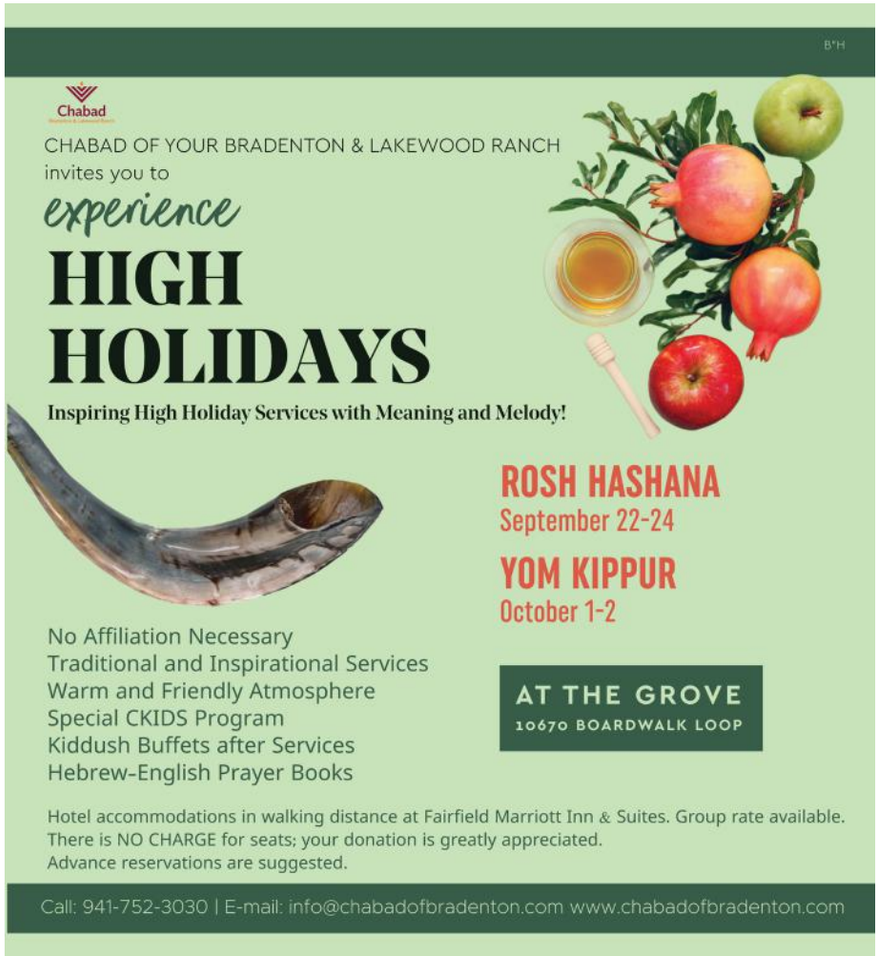
Gallant has consistently maintained that hostage release must precede resumed warfare. He has stressed that returning hostages must remain Israel's moral and strategic priority. He called for a national commission to investigate failures across every level of government, intelligence, military and said that "only sunlight and a truthful investigation will allow us to learn and build our strength to face future challenges."

Gallant's commitment to duty transcends partisan politics. Though aligned with the Likud Party since 2018, he has not hesitated to criticize leadership when principle demanded it. The intensity of the public response to his dismissal that included mass protests in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem reflects the depth of his credibility with many Israelis who saw in him a rare leader willing to put national unity above political convenience.

Through the turbulence, Gallant has also emphasized the strategic and cultural bonds between Israel and the United States. He described the two nations as "family" and urged continued engagement; disagreement may arise, but unity endures, Israel fights for the Western Civilization against terror.

Gallant was at the center of crisis decision-making during October 7 and the ensuing war. He is a decorated commander whose moral integrity and strategic clarity define his leadership. His willingness to confront hard truths and advocate for accountability makes his reflections indispensable at this juncture. In a time when many American Jews are re-examining their relationship with Israel, leadership and moral complexity matter deeply. Gallant models a dialogue grounded in conscience, honesty, and hope. His narrative is an invitation to engage in profound,

Continued on Page 20





volunteer spotlight

Celeste & Len Wisotsky Speak the Language of Friendship

By Sandy Chase,
Contributing Writer

The Wisotskys continue to spread the language of friendship through their volunteering at the **Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee** (JFSM). Together, they welcome prospective members and others in the community while involved in several of the organization's programs and social events.

Having relocated from Washington, D.C., to Lakewood Ranch, Celeste and Len accidentally learned about JFSM. She explains that they stumbled upon the *Jewish News* and thought it would be a great idea to become associated with the nonprofit.

Since that time, it's been win-win: The Wisotskys help JFSM bolster its mission while they fulfill their quest to expand their circle of friends.

Celeste says, "Our biggest challenge was acclimating to retirement and moving from our D.C. condo of 65 years to Florida, where we were hopeful that we would have an adventure. Making new friends, however, was a hurdle we had to overcome, having left 50-year friendships behind."

> **Making new friends, however, was a hurdle we had to overcome, having left 50-year friendships behind.**
>
> *– Celeste Wisotsky*

Rewarded by meeting new people, learning about the area, and getting involved with new activities and a new community have been rewarding experiences for Len and Celeste. Knowing the challenges associated with starting anew helps them empathize with others reaching out at JFSM events.

"When we originally contacted JFSM in 2020, we spoke with Jeremy Lisitza, who welcomed us. Because of his perseverance, we attended a sold-out Federation luncheon hosted by Michaels On East."

Jeremy, past JFSM Individual Giving Officer, remembers how Celeste wanted to connect to a Jewish community. "She was despondent because where she lived, no opportunities existed for her and Len to meet many Jews. At the time, there weren't Jewish groups like the Jewish Club of Lakewood Ranch, that there is now."

Hearing her distress, Jeremy invited her as Federation's guest to the Mort Skirboll Jewish Film Festival opening brunch, introducing her to attendees who lived near her. From there he got Len and Celeste involved with the festival and other luncheons and dinners. Jeremy also introduced them to Just Schmoozing events, working at various community farmers markets on Sundays, and assisting during lunches, dinners, and other meetings.

Len's career as a podiatrist, especially working with diabetics, and Celeste's expertise as a hair stylist and beauty consultant, strengthened by their natural inclination of wanting to ensure others enjoy life. They lend themselves to helping people, either to feel healthier or feel good about themselves.

Continued on Page 16



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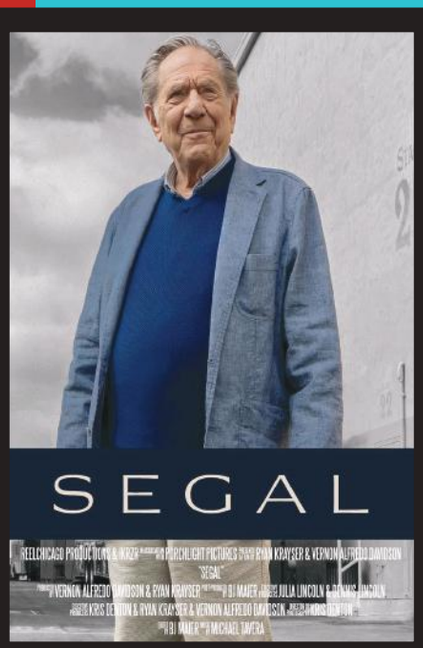
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High Tea opening event

MORT SKIRBOLL JEWISH FILM SERIES OF SARASOTA-MANATEE

NOVEMBER 2



From a shy Long Island kid to a Hollywood leading man, legendary entertainer George Segal lived a life full of unforgettable stories. On the set of ABC's *The Goldbergs*, he regaled cast and crew with tales of working alongside icons like Elizabeth Taylor, Orson Welles, Barbra Streisand, and Goldie Hawn. Director/producer Vernon Davidson, a Chicago native and University of Illinois graduate, trained at the famed Second City. His career highlights include directing and producing acclaimed films and TV shows—most notably *The Goldbergs*, where he helped bring Segal's final chapter to life.

11:30 AM*
THE ORA
*Traditional high tea will be served.

"As filmmakers, we are honored to share that joy with the world in a documentary that celebrates the life, career, and legacy of a man who dedicated his entire life to entertaining others. And we're thankful he did."
Vernon Davidson



SPECIAL GUEST

Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

Best Documentary Feature, Beaufort International Film Festival
Best Documentary Feature, Blue Whiskey Independent Film Festival
Best Documentary Feature, Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival
Best Feature Documentary, Sherman Oaks Film Festival

Questions? Contact Carol Dierksen at cdierksen@jfedsrq.org

Tickets: Visit jfedsrq.org/events

JEWISH FILM SERIES $75 MORT SKIRBOLL Jewish Film Series

Celeste & Len Wisotsky ... Continued from Page 15

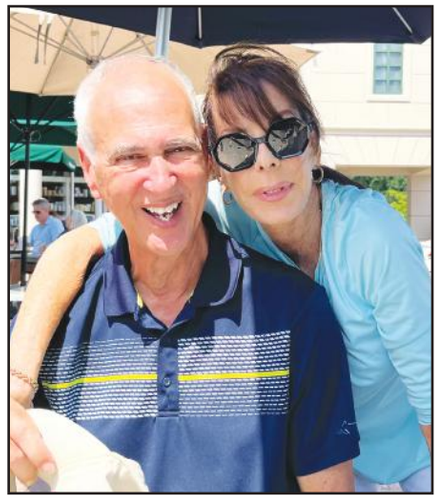
Both Celeste and Len have volunteered elsewhere. Celeste, while in Washington, D.C., having retired before her husband, volunteered at Kiddie Academy. Len volunteered in various hospital functions. For this community, the Wisotskys have tutored first-through-third graders at Oneco Elementary School in Bradenton and mentored underprivileged elementary-school children in a program co-sponsored by Anna Maria Oyster Bar and Gecko's Hospitality Group.

Hobbies are paramount to Len and Celeste: he plays golf, tennis, chess, and cards. Moving to Sarasota has introduced Celeste to her favorite activity: gardening. She also enjoys cards, board games, and meeting new people.

Judy Fox, a JFSM board member, and Eric Fox, met Celeste and Len during a Just Schmoozing event several years ago. Agreeing with others, the Foxes say, "The Wisotskys have engaging personalities and are easy to talk with on various topics. We're fortunate to call them friends."

When asked why they encourage others to volunteer, their answer is succinct: "You'll never regret it."

Outreach Manager Lauren Cohen emphasizes that JFSM is beholden to the Wisotskys' dedication:



Celeste and Len Wisotsky.

"I'm most impressed by their enthusiasm in everything they do. They are such a great team, and they exude a positive, infectious energy. At our Schmoozes, they have a gift connecting with people. Often, they invite newcomers out socially to help welcome them to the community. Celeste and Len are fixtures when we're at the Waterside Farmers Market. They draw people in with their big smiles and always find something to talk about."

JFSM Ambassadors, the Wisotskys speak a language all understand; Quality events promote inclusion, fun, and unity for all.

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Same Great Jewish Film Viewing, New Title

By Carol Dierksen,
Event Coordinator

The Mort Skirboll Jewish Film Festival has a new name and a new identity! It is now the Mort Skirboll Jewish Film Series. For the 2025-2026 season, you will see several changes.

Instead of a week with films every day, we are expanding each experience with monthly films, each offering a light nosh prior to the film and either someone related to the film, or an expert on the subject matter leading a discussion after the film.

This year's committee of Michael Albert, Susan Albert, Roz Goldberg, Paul Hollinger, Dan Ockner, Karen Ockner, Ronnie Riceberg, Bunny Skirboll, Lois Stulberg and Janet Tolbert are committed to bringing you the top Jewish films.

We will be opening the season with a traditional high tea on November 2 with the film, "Segal," a documentary, about the actor George Segal. He is known for his vast film and television career spanning many decades. He was working on the sitcom, "The Goldbergs," at the time of his death. We are fortunate to welcome show producer/director, Vernon Davidson, for a discussion after the film. During the tapings of "The Goldbergs," Davidson was able to capture much of the film content from Segal himself.

Get ready to celebrate with a Purim Dessert Party and holiday activities prior to the March 3 film.

Stay tuned for more exciting information as we confirm films and speakers. Go to **jfedsrq.org/events** for tickets. For information, contact Carol Dierksen at **cdierksen@jfedsrq.com** or 407-263-4974.

HIGH HOLY DAYS
2025/5786

The Jewish Congregation of Venice, Venice's synagogue, wishes our South West Florida Jewish Community a beautiful and bountiful New Year 5786.

We invite you to join us for High Holy Day services. For information about tickets, prices, times, and membership, visit the JCV website: **jewishcongregationofvenice.org** or call **941.484.2022**.

SELICHOT SERVICE
Sunday, September 14

EREV ROSH HASHANAH
Monday, September 22

ROSH HASHANAH/TASHLICH
Tuesday, September 23

YOM KIPPUR/KOL NIDRE
Wednesday, October 1

YOM KIPPUR
Thursday, October 2

Shana Tova

Jewish Congregation of Venice
600 N. Auburn Rd. | Venice, FL 34292

jewishcongregationofvenice.org
941.484.2022

What's COOKING?

By Sally Rosenkrantz

Honey Cake



Honey cake, or "lekach" is a popular dessert from Eastern Europe, and a traditional food for Rosh Hashanah. It's a symbol of the desire for a sweet new year, as honey is a sweet ingredient and is often paired with apples customarily dipped in honey.

Sally's daughter Rita writes in the cookbook *Food, Hope and Resilience: Authentic recipes and remarkable stories from Holocaust Survivors*, "My late mother, Sally Rosenkranz, who was from Radom, Poland, lost her mother in the Holocaust. Mom learned to cook and bake from her aunt, refining recipes over the years. I bake this crowd-pleasing honey cake for the holidays."

YIELD: Two 9-inch loaves, 12-16 slices each
START TO FINISH: Under 1 ½ hours

INGREDIENTS

½ C brewed coffee, cooled
3 ½ C sifted all-purpose flour
¼ tsp salt
2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
1 ½ tsp ground cinnamon
¼ tsp ground nutmeg
1/8 tsp powdered cloves *(optional)*
1 ½ tsp powdered ginger *(optional)*
4 eggs
1 C sugar
1 C vegetable oil
2 C dark honey
1 ½ C coarsely chopped walnuts or almonds
1 C raisins *(optional)*

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 325 degrees and grease two 9-inch loaf pans or a 16 x 11 x 4 inch baking pan. Brew the coffee and set it aside to cool.

In a medium bowl, sift the flour salt, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and ginger. In a separate bowl, beat the eggs on medium speed, gradually adding the sugar and beating for several minutes, until the mixture turns a pale yellow. Beat in the oil, honey, and cooled coffee. Gradually add the flour mixture to the wet mixture, beating on low speed to prevent the flour from flying out of the bowl. Turn the speed up to medium and beat for several minutes, until a smooth, thick batter is formed. Stir the chopped nuts into the batter. If you add raisins, stir them in at this time.

Fill the prepared pans halfway with batter. The cake rises considerably when baking. (Any extra batter can be used to make delicious muffins.) Bake for 1 to 1 1/4 hours until the top of the cake is cinnamon brown but not burnt, and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. This cake can deflate as it rests: while its sunken shape might look funny, it does nothing to the incredible taste. Cool completely before slicing.



Sally Rosenkrantz with husband.

Welcome to our monthly column celebrating the connection of food with Jewish culture and tradition. Reach out if you have a recipe or idea you would like to share: **hlurie@jfedsrq.org**

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Season KICKOFF

11 AM

Oct 19

COMMEMORATING OCT 7

WITH YOAV GALLANT



Oct 12 3 PM

INSIGHTS & Inspirations 2025 2026

AdultEd @ JFed





MORT SKIRBOLL JEWISH FILM SERIES OF SARASOTA-MANATEE

IMPACT THEATRE



THE CHALLAH Prince

Elon GOLD

Israeli Companies Add $7.3 Billion to Florida's Economy

By Nicky Blackburn,
Israel21c.org

Israeli-founded companies are having a substantial impact on Florida's economy by generating $7.3 billion in earnings, a massive 46 percent of the gross state product, according to the findings of the Florida-Israel Economic Impact Report released by the United States-Israel Business Alliance in April.

The study, the first of its kind for the state, is based on data from 2024, and identifies 429 Israeli-founded companies in Florida that directly employ 8,190 Floridians.

When factoring in the impact of businesses on the supply chain and household spending by employees, the total number of local jobs created by Israeli-founded companies in Florida triples to an estimated 26,510.

"There are several important factors that have contributed to Florida's economic boom in recent years," says Aaron Kaplowitz, President of the United States-Israel Business Alliance (USIBA). "This study affirms that Israel is one of them."

The USIBA study also reveals that employees of Israeli-founded companies earn 12 percent higher wages than the state average.

In Orange County, the average earnings generated by Israeli-founded firms is $96,600, 51 percent above the county average. The 760 total jobs created in Palm Beach County amount to $87,400 in average earnings, 30 percent above the county average.

In Miami-Dade County, where the economic impact is most pronounced, average wages are 18 percent higher at Israeli-founded firms than the county average. These businesses are responsible for more than $6 billion in gross output, which accounts for 2.78 percent of Miami-Dade's Gross Domestic Product.

> **"Israeli entrepreneurs are looking more and more at Florida as a viable option to grow their businesses in the U.S."**
> *– Aaron Kaplowitz*

The study also examines the economic impact Israeli-founded businesses are having on congressional districts. More than 86% of the total jobs created by Israeli-founded companies are in Districts 24, 27, 26, and 22, all located in South Florida.

"Israeli entrepreneurs are looking more and more at Florida as a viable option to grow their businesses in the U.S.," Kaplowitz says. "This means more local jobs, more state revenue, and more cutting-edge innovation."

According to the report, Israeli-founded companies also create a higher number of indirect jobs (12,650) compared to direct jobs (8,190), primarily due to supply chain and service dependencies within the sectors that Israeli-founded firms operate. This high employment multiplier effect is responsible for job creation across the state.

Other findings from the report show that Florida is now home to two Israeli-founded unicorns, privately held startup companies valued at over one billion U.S. dollars, Flow and Momentis Surgical.

It also shows that the area of deep sea passenger transportation is the sector making the most economic impact, and that today three industries are well-positioned for development: space, life sciences, and military defense and homeland security.

"According to the data and statewide trends we are tracking, we believe that Florida and Israel are just scratching the surface of their bilateral economic devel-

Continued on Page 20



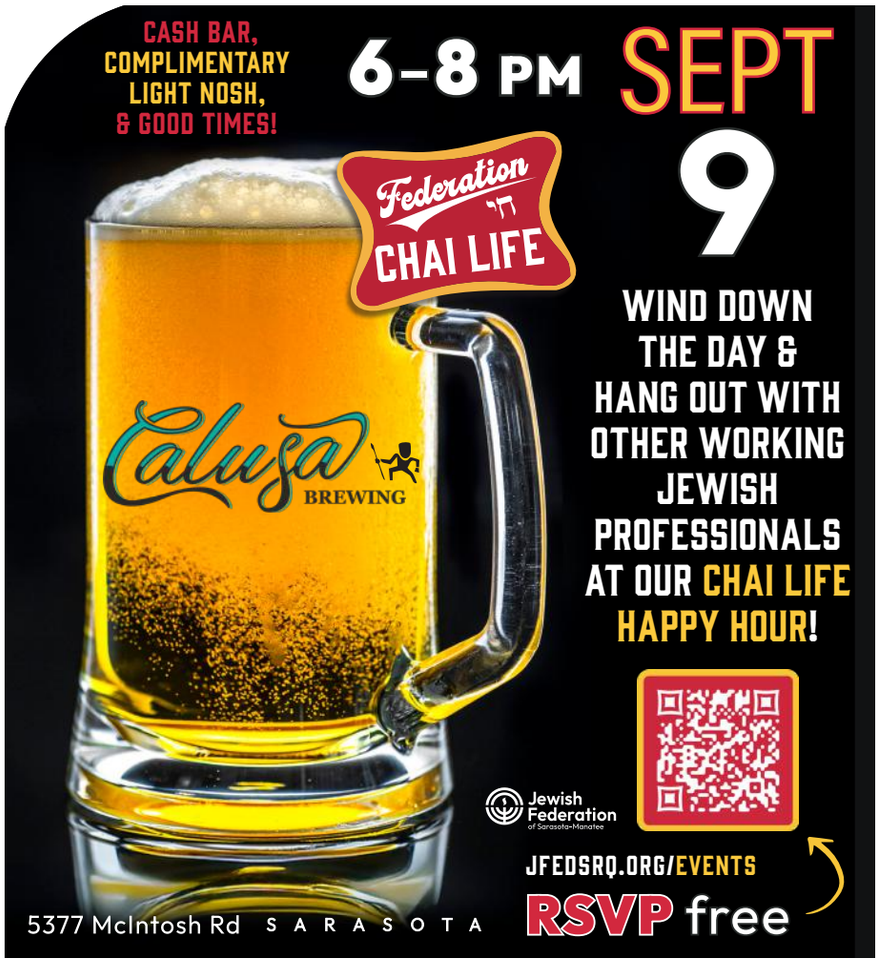




Photo by Wangkun Jia, via Shutterstock

An EL AL Dreamliner lands at Miami International Airport.

Israeli Companies ... Continued from Previous Page

opment potential," adds Kaplowitz.

Other Israeli companies operating in the Sunshine State include drone company Percepto, software company Tabit, space startup StemRad, robot companion developer Intuition Robotics, medical device company Memic, and BlueGreen Water Technologies, which is helping prevent harmful algae blooms in Lake Okeechobee.

In addition to being a great business partner, Israel has also sent aid teams to Florida in the wake of Hurricane Fiona, and when the Champlain Towers building collapsed in Surfside, Florida, in 2021, killing 98 people.

An Evening with Israeli General ... Continued from Page 14

principled conversation, not only about the past, but about shared futures.

We invite you to join us to hear directly from General Gallant. Experience his unfiltered perspective on decision making that unfolded in real time, and explore how moral leadership, strategic integrity, and communal responsibility intertwine. His presence in Sarasota is one of only a few public U.S. appearances, offering a rare chance to hear from a leader whose voice has shaped events at Israel's most critical moments. Come to participate and bear witness to a conversation that honors memory, demands accountability, and champions the future.





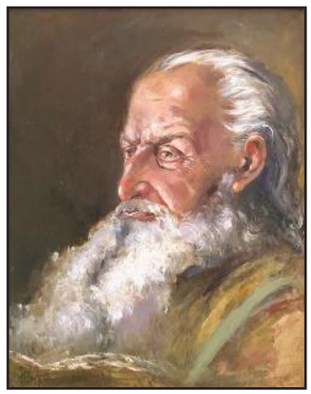
Holocaust Survivors' Art to be Exhibited in Venice

Submitted by JFCS, Holocaust Survivor Program









Above: Detail from art by Rita Geifman. Right: Two pieces by Yakov Tsatskin and Far right: Art by Violetta Chandler.

A special event is coming to our community in Venice: an art exhibition featuring the artwork of local Holocaust Survivors living in Sarasota County. The Venice Art Center graciously offered space to host the exhibition. The show will run from September 12 through October 2. The exhibit is titled "Through Their Eyes," and the artists will be presented as a group under the name "Across Generations."

Many people in our community don't realize how many Holocaust Survivors still live among us. Each Survivor has an incredible story to tell, and this exhibition brings their powerful experiences to light in such a unique and meaningful way.

The idea for the exhibit came from a volunteer with Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS). The volunteer visited the home of one of our Survivors, Rita Geifman, and was deeply moved by her artwork. It's a wonderful example of how meaningful it is when the younger generation connects with the older generation; there is so much to learn from each other!

The exhibition title, "Through Their Eyes," holds deep meaning. One of the featured artists, Yakov Tsatskin, survived the ghetto with his three sisters; all since have passed away. One of his paintings is a portrait of his youngest sister, Eva, who was also a JFCS client. It says: "In hunger and in cruel frost, your life was miraculously preserved. Despite all this, you are like a rose, as if you were born in paradise." Tsatskin now lives in an assisted living facility, and his family is planning to bring him to the opening! He represents the fourth generation of artists in his family.

Born in Moldova, Tsatskin moved 40 years ago from from Ukraine to the United States. His daughter, Violetta Chandler, is a well-known artist in Sarasota, and PBS even created a documentary about her. She is a fifth generation artist, which is why we've named the group of artists "Across Generations."

Geifman, another participating artist, is turning 91 this September! She escaped the siege of Leningrad, having been called a "flight case," she has now been officially recognized as a Holocaust Survivor by the German government. She discovered her artistic talent during the Covid-19 pandemic and is now a self-taught artist creating stunning oil paintings.

This event is more than just an art show, it's a celebration of survival, resilience, and creativity passed down through generations. We are so excited to share it with the community.

The opening is September 12 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

For more information please go to **JFCS-Cares.org.**

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The Prayers of a Local Mountain Climber







Top left: Lori Dorman's arrival at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro was a moment of deep prayer and spirituality. Lower left: With prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude, Lori Dorman made her ascent up Mount Kilimanjaro. Top right: Lori and her guide, Charles, at Mount Kilimanjaro.

Submitted by Temple Emanu-El

Lori Dorman, a past board member of Temple Emanu-El and Community Day School, has long combined her devotion to Judaism with her passion for athletics. As she shares below, her greatest challenge also brought great spirituality and deep meaning.

"When I was in my twenties, I discovered athletics. When we moved to Florida a few years later, I started running races. Those were followed by triathlons and long-distance cycling: A triathlon in Key Biscayne, a half-marathon in Ireland, a marathon in Paris, and cycling from Jerusalem to Eilat. Before the start of each adventure, I prayed. I could not have raced without first thanking G-d and expressing gratitude for all the people who helped me. Every one of those prayers was followed by the Shema," Dorman said.

"This summer, I completed my biggest athletic challenge ever. On June 21, I made it to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. I trained for six months before going on the trek: hiking for hours, sweating at boot camp, climbing stairs at Robinson Preserve, and trudging all over Celery Fields. Even with that training, I could not have made it to the summit without the incredible people who organized and supported our climb and the 12 amazing women on our trip.

"What surprised me most was what a huge part prayer played on this adventure. During a training hike, two women in a visitors' center in Kennesaw, Georgia, asked what I was training for and, after hearing me say Kilimanjaro, asked if they could pray for me. At a Shabbat service at Temple Emanu-El before the trip, our Rabbis and the congregation said prayers for me. I received a blessing at a graduation party right before I left. During the nighttime climb to the summit, I could not stop praying and thanking G-d for all the amazing people and things in my life.

"And when we made it to the summit, one of our hikers, Jane, asked me to say the Shema with her. That couldn't have been more perfect," Dorman concluded.

Jewish Chorale Seeks Singers

Submitted by the Sarasota Jewish Chorale

The Sarasota Jewish Chorale is looking forward to its fall 2025 season under the baton of its talented new conductor Suzanne Stearns, and versatile accompanist Bruce Ensinger. The chorale is a spirited ensemble of volunteer singers who are dedicated to sharing their rich and diverse musical heritage with the greater Sarasota community, young and old. The Sarasota Jewish Chorale welcomes new and former singers. All with an interest are encouraged to contact Ronnie Riceberg at 508-942-1479 or **president@sarasotajewishchorale.org** or Herb Fox at 617-899-3066 or **vp@sarasotajewishchorale.org** for further information. Rehearsals will begin in September.

Sarasota Jewish Theatre: One of 21

This program is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota–Manatee

By Carole Kleinberg, Artistic Director

Our past five seasons, with many sold out productions and rave reviews from audience members, have been more successful than I had ever imagined they could be. Without the support of the community, Sarasota Jewish Theatre (SJT) would not be enthusiastically heading into season six.

On the subject of our success, I want to share something I think is important. This past spring we were visited by Igor Turin, a professional photographer from Germany who is creating a photo book of all the Jewish theaters in the world. He came to Sarasota to photograph our production of "Bad Jews."

SJT is a member of the Alliance for Jewish Theatre (AJT). When we originally joined AJT in 2019 we were still a program of the **Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee** (JFSM). In 2022, we received our own 501(c)3 and became a full-fledged Jewish theater. At that time, AJT had about 160 member theaters worldwide (outside of Israel).

Turin told us that currently, excluding Israel, there are 21 active Jewish theaters in the world. I was shocked and dismayed by this news. Clearly, our unique cultural oasis and supportive Jewish community account for much of our success. So, a giant "Thank you" to JFSM and to all our donors and patrons for helping Sarasota Jewish Theatre be one of the 21.

*For more information about us and our 2025-2026 season, visit **SarasotaJewishTheatre.org.***

Mitzvah Milestone

Temple Beth Israel's Past President, Stuart Sinai, recently celebrated a significant milestone. An inspirational service was held to commemorate the 71st anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah, followed by a catered luncheon. Mazel Tov!



"La La La Havdalah"



Temple Emanu-El's "La La La Havdalah" is a much-loved summer tradition as members and guests gather for a lively sing-a-long of Jewish and American favorites, plus friendly socializing over homemade desserts and havdalah. This year's event, on Saturday evening, June 28, was led with talent, spirit, and joy by Toby Simon. Among the attendees were Drs. Stephen and Janet Hiller, accompanied by family members visiting from Israel!

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Temple Sinai Announces New Ed Director

By Gail Glickman

Temple Sinai is pleased to announce that Michele Read has joined the staff as Director of Education. Read is no stranger to Temple Sinai, as she previously taught at The Gan preschool during its early days and taught fourth-grade Hebrew at Temple Sinai. With over a decade of experience teaching Hebrew School from pre-K to seventh grade, she is very familiar with the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish community.



Read

Read holds degrees in Psychology and Elementary Education from the University of Miami, and degrees in Primary and Special Education from the University of South Florida. She was a special education and elementary education teacher for 20 years.

Read expressed her enthusiasm for her plans for Temple Sinai. She stated, "I believe that childhood should be a journey of discovery, not a race. I am developing a curriculum tailored to the needs of Temple Sinai, ensuring Hebrew reading and prayers remain central to our Hebrew School. I plan to introduce a parent program engaging them in learning and connection while their child prepares for his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah. This initiative will strengthen the bond between family learning and the child's experience. I am honored to serve as the new Director of Education, and look forward to this journey and the meaningful experiences we will create together!"

Temple Sinai President, Sherry Thomas, stated, "Michele's vision includes building an enriching program that incorporates Judaica, music, and art, which will bring a well-rounded experience to our students. This is an exciting time for Temple Sinai as we welcome her to our community. We wish Michele and her sons, Julian and Elijah, great joy and success as part of the Temple Sinai family."

4th of July Erev Shabbat



Rabbi Michael Cohen, left, led the Temple Sinai festive July 4th Erev Shabbat. The Rabbi received a warm welcome as he led his first Temple Sinai Erev Shabbat Service, accompanied by Chazzan Cliff Abramson, right, and the Bruno Trio. This Rhythm and Jews inspirational, joyful service added to the beauty of Shabbat. Following the service, congregants and guests enjoyed a Red, White, and Blue Barbecue.







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2025 HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 5786

September 22	7:30 pm	Rosh Hashanah Evening Service
September 23	10:00 am	Rosh Hashanah Morning Service
	1:30 pm	Rosh Hashanah Family Service
October 1	7:30 pm	Kol Nidre Evening Service
October 2	10:00 am	Yom Kippur Morning Service
	1:30 pm	Yom Kippur Family Service
	3:15 pm	Yom Kippur Afternoon Service
	4:30 pm	Yizkor Memorial Service
	5:30 pm	Ne'ilah Concluding Service







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Jewish Club Launches New Health & Wellness Program

As part of its ongoing mission to enrich the lives of its members, the Lakewood Ranch Jewish Club has proudly launched a new initiative: the Health & Wellness Program, designed to educate, empower, and support our community in leading a rich, healthy and informed life as we age.

The program officially launched in May with an engaging and informative session titled, "Exercise is Medicine," presented by Dr. Richard Josephson, a nationally recognized expert in cardiovascular health. Dr. Josephson's presentation explored how even modest levels of physical activity, such as walking in your neighborhood, can significantly reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases and serve as a powerful therapeutic tool for those already managing conditions like hypertension, diabetes, or heart disease.

"Exercise provides the greatest relative benefits even at modest levels," said Josephson.

A longtime advocate for patient-centered care and healthy aging, Josephson has graciously committed his time and expertise to the Health & Wellness Program, helping shape its development as both a medical advisor and featured speaker.



Lee Frank, left, with Dr. Rich Josephson.

The Health & Wellness Program is being coordinated under the leadership of Lee Frank, a dedicated Club member who brings both administrative experience and a personal passion for healthy living to the role.

"We want to create a space where people feel empowered to take charge of their health and well-being," said Frank, Program Administrator.

Among the upcoming sessions is a thought-provoking and practical program currently in development titled, "Can I Stay or Should I Go?" This discussion will provide participants with guidance and tools to evaluate their options as they age, whether to remain in their homes and what that entails, or explore independent or assisted living communities.

"This is a conversation many of us will face. Our goal is to help members make informed, confident decisions," said Robin Scheer Ettinger, Program Developer.

The session is being developed by Scheer Ettinger, working in collaboration with experts in the senior living field to ensure members receive well-rounded, informative perspectives.

The Health & Wellness Program is one of several initiatives the Lakewood Ranch Jewish Club is rolling out in the coming year, with the goal of fostering deeper connections and providing meaningful content in areas that matter most to our members.

For more information about the Lakewood Ranch Jewish Club or its Health & Wellness offerings, please visit **LakewoodRanchJewishClub.org**.

Check out a complete listing of Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee events on our online calendar: jfedsrq.org/events



'Tash-likh,' Casting Off Our Sins

K'zohar Ha-Ivrit

The Splendor of Hebrew



By Dr. Rachel Zohar Dulin

The High Holidays are at our door. Both Holidays, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, are two of the Holidays observed in the month of Tishrei, as they usher in the new Jewish year. The High Holidays conjure in our mind the time of recounting and re-evaluating our deeds and behavior throughout the past year. Deep in our heart we know that we experienced good days and bad days, and we hope and pray that by asking for forgiveness we leave the negative behind, and we look forward for a new and fresh beginning. This hope is at the center of a custom known as Tash-likh, which is first mentioned in the work of the Maharil from Germany (1365-1427 C.E.). However already in the Kabalistic book of the Zohar, dated to 1290 C.E., we find references that alludes to a similar custom (Zohar 101 a,b)

> **"The custom became increasingly popular as it represented to many the cleansing from sin and a hope for a new start in a new year."**

According to the custom of Tash-likh, people fill their pockets with breadcrumbs and gather around a body of water, usually a river or a lake, where fish are to be found. They empty their pockets shaking all the contents into the water, to symbolically declare the casting away of their sins. In the ceremony several verses from the Psalms (Palms 118;130) as well the words of the prophet Micha are recited. It was the prophet Micha who said: "a-vo-no-tay-nu tash-likh bim-tzu-lot yam," literally "Thou will cast all our sins into the depth of the sea" (Micha 7:19). The name Tash-likh for this custom was taken from these words of the prophet who declared God's love for the people, as He cleansed them from all iniquities. We should mention that in the early beginning of the evolvement of the Tash-likh tradition the rabbis objected to the custom for they feared that superstition rather than true repentance would take over. However, with the years the custom became increasingly popular as it represented to many the cleansing from sin and a hope for a new start in a new year.

The word Tash-likh is derived from the verb "sha-lakh" which has several meanings. Depending on context "sha-lkh," can mean cast off, hurl, throw, discard, abandon, and reject. A few interesting idioms and expressions are based in the verb sha-lakh. For example, "hish-likh go-ral," literally meaning cast a lot, (based on Joshua 18:8). Also, the idiom "hish-likh ya-ha-vo al plo-ni," namely, cast one's burden on someone, implies leaning and trusting someone (based on Psalm 55:23). The phrase "hish-likh mi-sha-ma-yim a-retz," literally, to cast from Heaven to earth, implies degrading someone (based on Lamentation 2:1). And lastly, we should mention the phrase "hish-likh naf-sho mi-ne-ged," literally, threw one's own self in front, implying throwing one's life away or risking one's own life in order to save others, (based on Judges 9:17).

In short, the noun Tash-likh stands alone as the name of a popular custom which evolved through the years. Tash-likh symbolizes the desire to cleanse one's soul and begin a new year with clear conscience. Let us hope that those of us who practice this custom will succeed "le-hash-likh," to cast away and abandon, the thoughts and feelings which burden them. And let us all hope and pray to be sealed to a good and healthy year. Amen.

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Jewish Medical Ethics: A 21st Century Discussion

10/28/25 – 1/13/26* Tues. 6:00 – 7:30 PM Rabbi Jennifer Singer

This 10-session course explores the positive, negative, beneficial, and detrimental aspects of the new technologies in the medical field and the wisdom Judaism offers us in our encounters with them. The course was designed and written by world-renowned medical ethicist, Rabbi Elliot Dorff, PhD (author of *Matters of Life and Death: A Jewish Approach to Modern Medical Ethics*).

* With a two-week break end of December.

Under the Radar: Four Fascinating Biblical Women

10/30/25 – 11/20/25 Wed. 10:00 – 11:30 AM Rabbi Jennifer Singer

The Jewish Bible is filled with women both brave and fearful, women who stepped into the stories that our people have told for generations. Together we will journey into their lives, gaining perspectives on their characters, relationships, and choices.

Israeli TV & Cinema

11/5/25 – 12/10/25 Wed. 1:00 – 3:30 PM Liat Alon, Ph.D.

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Questions? Contact Rabbi Jennifer Singer at jsinger@jfedsrq.org

Celebrating Birthdays – The World's and Yours



Aging Jewishly

What Our Traditions Tell Us About Growing Old

By Rabbi Barbara Aiello

Even with her hearing aids in the drawer, the doorbell chimes were loud enough for Rena to hear them. "As I live and breathe," was all Rena could say when she saw her two teenage grandsons waving birthday flags and counting down, "Seven, Six, Five, Four, Three, Two, One! Only one more week and it'll be your birthday, Grandma. We're here to start a week of celebrations!"

Rena hoped her grandsons didn't see her forced smile. She didn't want to spoil their fun so she went along with their enthusiasm while inside she felt like she always felt: birthdays are for kids. Birthdays are reminders of how old we've gotten and how little time we have left.

Why talk about birthdays? Why now? With Erev Rosh Hashanah around the corner, we Jews will be celebrating a birthday: the birthday of the world. So there's no better time than right before Yontif to consider our own birthdays and how we feel about marking our own new year.

Yes, it's true. September 22 is Erev Rosh Hashanah and it is traditionally considered the world's birthday party. Among Sephardic Jews, the evening before the first day of Rosh Hashanah features a Rosh Hashanah seder, complete with prayers, blessings, symbolic foods, and its own special users' manual: the Rosh Hashanah Haggadah. In it we read about the creation story as found in "B'resheet," Genesis, with a focus on the sixth day when human beings were created. Humanity began and humanity continues with each person created with her/his own special birthday.

So back to Rena who clearly wants no part of birthday celebrations. Sadly, Rena is not alone. Anecdotal studies indicate that about half of men and women who consider themselves elderly, eschew the cake, the candles, and all the traditional hoopla associated with a birthday celebration. Their attitude, "Don't make a fuss. It's just another day."

Not so for author Tamar Hurwitz-Fleming, whose recent book addresses the topic. Titled, "How to Have a Happy Birthday: Create Meaning, Fulfillment and Joy on Your Special Day," the author explains why celebrating your birthday is a healthy thing to do. As a guest on a recent podcast, ("Release," April 2025) Hurwitz-Fleming traces the history of birthday celebrations that began in Egypt, and centuries later arrived in Germany as a "Kinder" celebration, complete with a small cake adorned with one candle.

Hurwitz-Fleming knows what she's talking about. Her own Jewish journey is steeped in tradition. She discovered her Jewish roots and became a Spanish citizen thanks to a law that welcomed the return of Sephardic Jews whose ancestors were expelled during the Spanish Inquisition.

Just as tradition plays a part in the Jewish New Year, birthday celebrations, creating personal birthday traditions, especially as we age, demonstrates that we are living in the present. Hurwitz-Fleming suggests that regardless of past birthday trauma or disappointments, it is important to become "birthday positive." That means finding new ways to "dodge the birthday blues" and discover the magic in your special day.

Just as Rosh Hashanah is a spiritual day to celebrate the birthday of the world and the beginning of a new Jewish year, embedded in our own birthdays is a similar spiritual component. Birthdays are our personal new year, the day when our body and our spirit are in perfect alignment, or as **Chabad.org** puts it, "Your birthday commemorates the day on which G-d said to you: 'You, as an individual, are unique and irreplaceable. No person alive, no person who has ever lived, and no person who shall ever live, can fulfill the specific role in My creation I have entrusted to you ... '"

So make the most of the most spiritual day of your year. As the shofar sounds to celebrate the birthday of the world, promise yourself to make your own birthday a spiritually uplifting celebration filled with gratitude and joy. Shanah Tovah and Happy Birthday to you!

*For ten years Rabbi Barbara Aiello served the Aviva Campus for Senior Life in Sarasota as resident rabbi. She is author of "Aging Jewishly," (Amazon) and is Italy's first woman rabbi. Contact her at **Rabbi@RabbiBarbara.com** if you'd like to know your Hebrew birthday!*



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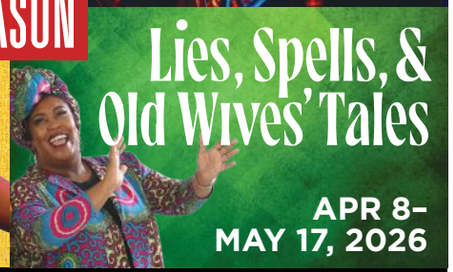
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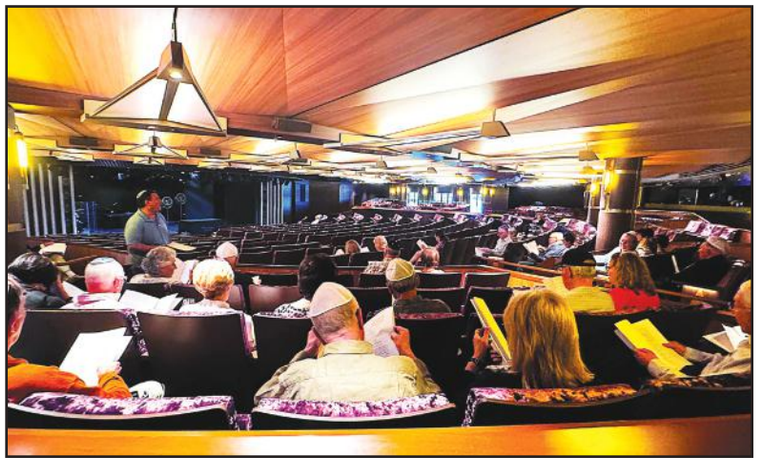
Jewish Experiences When You Least Expect Them



Jewish Journeys

Travel Advice from a Pro

By Roz Bokoff





Far left: Shabbat onboad the cruise ship. Left: The Grand Synagogue of Bordeaux is a 19th Century Sephardic synagogue.

On a recent cruise, we traced the Atlantic coast of France and Spain, visiting St. Malo, Bilbao, and other sites filled with scenic beauty, regional flavors, and opportunities for cultural encounters. We didn't expect much from a Jewish perspective, but the trip provided surprising moments of reflection and emotion.

Our second port was in the elegant city of Bordeaux, where we overnighted from Friday through Saturday. Our Friday excursion was a sidecar tour of the city, and our young guides were happy to add the Grand Synagogue of Bordeaux to stops on our route.

We arrived at the magnificent synagogue and sadly were unsurprised by the iron security fence protecting the building from those who might do harm. Plastered to the front of the building were posters of October 7 hostages, and on every bar of the fence was a yellow ribbon. I became emotional on seeing the ribbons and started crying. The guides, on seeing my reaction, didn't know what to make of it, and the female guide sweetly came to comfort me and asked what was wrong. I pointed to the posters and ribbons and explained what they were and why they were there.

Imagine my amazement when she didn't know what I was talking about. She knew nothing about the hostages. When I explained the posters, she asked, "How can it be? There are babies and children on the posters!" Neither guide knew what transpired on October 7. I explained a little of what happened, and they were shocked. They said were going to learn about what happened, and I hope they did. It was a jarring reminder of the different media realities and sensitivities across borders and the gaps in global awareness. Events that are so central to the Jewish community in the last two years may be unknown to others.

> **"Although I didn't understand a word of his dvar Torah, the bar mitzvah boy was a fantastic service leader and Torah reader!"**

Back on the ship that evening, we attended the first of two guest-led Kabbalat Shabbat services onboard. Among the mainly British and American guests were many Jews. My husband was the "shaliach tzibur," service leader, for approximately 50 guests from all over the United States and England. There was a sense of unity in the group, and we were thrilled to meet so many Jews looking for community, spirituality, or both on our journey.

Knowing we'd be in Bordeaux on Shabbat, I had requested admittance to Shabbat services at the synagogue, and I was lucky enough to be there for a bar mitzvah! Built in the 19th Century, the Sephardic synagogue is a testament to the once-thriving Jewish community and its continued presence. The service was memorable and moving with over 200 community members in attendance. Although I didn't understand a word of his dvar Torah, the bar mitzvah boy was a fantastic service leader and Torah reader!

Our journey continued to (mostly) interesting ports, and we enjoyed ourselves both on land and onboard the ship. Then, on Friday, June 13th, Israel bombed Iran. That evening, we had Shabbat services again. This time, over 60 guests attended, and I led services to a standing-room-only "congregation." That Shabbat service served as a grounding ritual, an opportunity to pray for resilience, to hold onto tradition, and to act as a testament to the power of community, at a time when we worried about Israel and our brethren around the world. It felt incredible to have so many people comforting one another and showing unity.

The voyage was a reminder that travel isn't just about the places we visit. It's about our experiences, people, stories, and feelings we encounter along the way. For me, staying aware of my upbringing while traveling enhances my understanding of the Jewish people and of myself as a Jew in the world.

Roz Bokoff and her husband, Marc, are travel advisors based in Lakewood Ranch. Experienced in all types of travel around the world, their Jewish heritage and practice drives them to seek out Jewish culture when they travel. Roz can be reached at ***Roz.Bokoff@CruisePlanners.com****.*



Jews Were Few, Growing Up in Muscatine, Iowa

Tales of Two Cities

A Look at Hometowns of New Local Residents



By Kim Sheintal

In the 1990s, Bernice Kaufman had a postcard shop on St. Armands, where I attended a Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida presentation. At random, she picked a postcard to show everyone. It showed a store in downtown Muscatine, Iowa owned by a Jewish man. It reminded me of my Jewish college friend from Muscatine, Susie, who introduced me to my husband. I never thought I would ever meet another person from Muscatine. In 2022, I met Linda Cohn at Temple Emanu-El in Sarasota. When she told me that she was from Muscatine and her father owned a store in downtown Muscatine, I was pleasantly surprised. She also knew my friend Susie! I think Linda's father's store was on the postcard. Here is how Linda Cohn describes growing up Jewish in Muscatine, Iowa.

In the Words of Linda Cohn

My experience as a Jew growing up in my hometown of Muscatine, Iowa, and subsequently retiring to the city of Sarasota could not be more dissimilar.

My father was born in Muscatine on East 7th Street in January of 1910. His parents had emigrated from Eastern Europe several years earlier. He and his sister and three brothers grew up about a block from a small building that served as a Jewish synagogue for the few families living in the area. Unfortunately, however, it was only open on the High Holidays and a rabbi was brought in from Chicago to lead services. My dad at times had to drive the 30 miles to Davenport, Iowa, to pick up a rabbi or rabbinical student who had just arrived by bus, and we often had to wait for a "minyan," ten men, to begin services. The women always sat upstairs, separated from the men. As my dad was pretty strict, he refused to ride in a car on the High Holidays, so I sometimes walked the half-hour or so with him to the synagogue. My mom, however, would take a taxi, getting out a couple of blocks away and walking the rest of the way!

My parents had a successful News Agency/General Store a couple of blocks from the Mississippi River. Surprisingly, they kept kosher and had to get kosher meat driven in from Omaha, Nebraska. That is, until the 1960s when, in an attempt to regulate meat safety, shipments across state lines were radically cut. After that, Muscatine's Jewish families got together periodically to order kosher food, and someone would have to drive the 3-1/2 hours to Chicago to pick it up. In addition I remember going to a kosher butcher on Sundays across the river in Rock Island, Illinois (32 miles away), where my mother grew up. The chickens were



Cohn's General Store in Muscatine, Iowa.

fresh. I saw one still running around after the butcher chopped off its head!

I also remember having to drive all the way to Rock Island for Sunday School at the Tri-City Jewish Center, where the rest of the students were all friends who attended public school together during the week. I was definitely not in the loop. After Sunday School we always got to visit my mother's two sisters who served us a lunch of hot dogs and/or tuna fish casserole with crispy potato chips on top. Although it was important to my father that I attend Sunday School, he was unable, due to his 7-day a week business, to drive me to Hebrew School. Since my mother didn't drive, the idea of a Jewish education and bat mitzvah was forfeited.

> **"[My sister] and I were the only Jews in our elementary school, but I never once remember experiencing any antisemitism."**

In hindsight, Muscatine was not a bad place to grow up, though fairly devoid of Jewish life. There was one Jewish boy and a couple of other families with girls around my age, and we were all in high school together. My sister told me that her high school classmates let her decorate the school Christmas tree since we didn't have one at home! She and I were the only Jews in our elementary school, but I never once remember experiencing any antisemitism. In fact, quite the opposite! My third grade teacher, for example, always enthusiastically insisted that I tell the story of Passover to the class and bring in matzah and macaroons to share. Then she would send me across the hall to the other third grade class to repeat. It was always very well-received (especially the snacks!).

Unfortunately, Friday night synagogue services were out of the question for my family as they were held too far away. It was probably not until I moved to the Boston area in my mid-20s that I found my true interest in Judaism. I met a friend at a Young Jewish Singles event and we signed up together to become bat mitzvah at a local Temple. I still today have a couple of close friends from that class. It was a very meaningful experience for us.

Nothing in my upbringing prepared me for what I am now so lucky to be a part of here in Sarasota. With a large Jewish population, the multitude of excellent Jewish Federation events, the Sarasota Jewish Theatre, the new Campus for Jewish Life, and the wonderfully welcoming and spiritual home I have now found in Temple Emanu-El, I am most grateful. Even the community where I now live has numerous Jewish families who I am pleased to call my friends, and happily some of us frequently attend Friday night services together. We even have a Chai Club here with monthly activities, our Hanukkah parties and Bagel Brunches see as many as 150 friends in attendance. A far cry from my childhood in Muscatine.

I cannot help but think how pleased my folks would be about that. I am truly blessed.

Are you a snowbird or a full-time transplant from another place? Are you willing to contribute your thoughts to our limited series? If so, please email ***blurie@jfedsrq.org.***

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THURSDAY ▶ Englewood at the Market on Dearborn

Five New Movies in Theaters & Probably All Are Good

Stars of David

What's Jewish in Film and TV

By Nate Bloom

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.

More than six months ago, reliable sources said that "Bau: Artist at War", would open in movie theaters on January 24, 2025. I guess it got a very limited release, because, now, the "big release" is set for September 26. I wrote about this film last January. It's an important film, so I will repeat most of what I wrote:

I could use several columns to explain who **Joseph Bau** was and convey his amazing life. Do "Google" his name and you'll find many articles that provide full bios.

Bau (Emile Hirsch) was a Polish Jew who was imprisoned in the Plaskow concentration camp near Krakow, Poland. This is the concentration camp depicted in "Schindler's List" and Oskar Schindler is a character in "Bau." Schindler saved the lives of Bau and **Rebecca**, a woman whom Bau met and married in the concentration camp.

Bau used his artistic talents to stay alive and to create phony identity documents that allowed many Jews to escape the camp and survive; all this is in the film. It also shows Bau and his wife moving to Israel in 1950, and his return to Europe, to testify against the Nazi officer who tortured and killed his father.

Hirsch's paternal grandfather was Jewish. The rest of his "grands" weren't Jewish. Rebecca is played by **Inbar Lavi**, 38, a well-known Israeli actress. She was a main cast member in five American TV series: "Underemployed," "Gang Related," "Prison Break," "Imposters," and, "Lucifer."

september releases

"The Threesome," theaters 9/5

"Spinal Tap II: The End Continues," theaters 9/12

"Bau: Artist at War," theaters 9/26

"Caught Stealing" opened on August 29. It's a crime thriller film. The central character, Hank Thompson (Austin Butler), a former pro baseball player, gets himself immersed in the New York City criminal underworld. The film is set in the 1990s.

The film was directed by **Darren Arnofsky**, 56. He's made ten feature films since 1998. All are interesting, but some haven't made a profit. Four big box office hits he directed are "Black Swan," "The Wrestler," "Noah," and, "The Whale."

Liev Schreiber, 57, and **Zoe Kravitz,** 36, have star roles. **Carol Kane,** 73, has a supporting role. Schreiber's mother was Jewish and he very strongly identifies as Jewish. I have related Kravitz's unusual background in depth. Here it is in short: her paternal grandfather and her maternal grandmother were Jewish and Zoe identifies as an African-American and as a "secular Jew."

"The Roses" is a black satirical comedy that opened in theaters on August 29. It is a re-make of the big hit 1989 film of the same name. The 1989 film and the 2025 film are based on a 1981 novel of the same name written by **Warren Adler,** (1927-2019).

In short, an affluent couple, Oliver Rose (Benedict Cumberbatch, 2025 film), and Barbara Rose (Olivia Colman, 2025 film), have a long-term marriage that breaks down completely. They "go to war." The war is not just in a court of law. It's also in their home.

The biggest supporting role is Barry, a nasty friend of Oliver who gives him advice. He's played by **Andy Samberg,** 46.

Continued on Next Page



SARASOTA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
2025-2026 Lecture Series

FREE EVENT

AMBASSADOR STUART EIZENSTAT
Chair, United States Holocaust Memorial Council

American Diplomacy from Nixon to Trump: Israel, Iran, and the Holocaust

Sarasota World Affairs Council

Thursday, October 9 • 6:30PM

Mildred Sainer Pavilion
5313 Bay Shore Road
Sarasota, FL 34243

Please RSVP to info@sarasotawac.org

The Sarasota World Affairs Council, based at New College of Florida, is a member of the largest non-profit, non-partisan grassroots organization in the United States dedicated to educating and engaging Americans on global issues.

Ambassador Stuart E. Eizenstat is Chair of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. Ambassador Eizenstat has served under six presidents, Democratic and Republican. He was Chief White House Domestic Policy Adviser to President Carter. His recommendation to President Carter to create a Presidential Commission on the Holocaust, chaired by Eli Wiesel, led directly to the creation of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. In the Clinton administration, he was Ambassador to the European Union; Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs, and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. While holding these positions, he was also Special Representative to President Clinton on Holocaust Issues. It was due to his leadership that Holocaust justice for survivors and families of those killed was put on the world's agenda. During the Obama and Biden Administrations, Ambassador Eizenstat was Special Advisor to Secretaries of State Clinton, Kerry, and Blinken. In the Trump Administration he currently has that title for Secretary of State Rubio. His work resulted in $8 billion in recoveries from Swiss and French banks, German and Austrian slave labor companies, and European insurance companies. He was the principal author of the *Washington Principles on Nazi-confiscated Art* with 44 countries, leading to the return of thousands of Nazi-looted artworks, books, and Jewish cultural and religious objects. As pro bono Special Negotiator for the Jewish Claims Conference, he has negotiated compensation and social services for survivors with the German government, with an emphasis on home care for elderly, poor Holocaust survivors, pensions, and special supplemental payments for the poorest survivors, totaling over $9 billion. He chairs the board of the Defiant Requiem Foundation, honoring the memory of the musicians and artists at the Theresienstadt. He has received eight honorary doctorates and over 80 awards, including the Elie Wiesel Award, and from the governments of France (Legion of Honor), Germany, Austria, Belgium, Israel, and the United States. He has authored four books: *Imperfect Justice: Looted Assets, Slave Labor & the Unfinished Business of World War II*, *The Future of the Jews: How Global Forces Are Impacting the Jewish People, Israel, and Its Relationship with the United States*; *President Carter: The White Years*; and his most recent book, *The Art of Diplomacy: How American Negotiators Reached Historic Agreements that Changed the World*.

sarasotawac.org info@sarasotawac.org 5313 Bay Shore Road Sarasota, FL 34243

Lost Synagogues of Eastern Europe Recalled

Jewish Folk Art

Finding Beauty in Past Creations



By Arlene Stolnitz

I have a custom of giving a gift of Judaica to Bar or Bat Mitzvah students. It might be a shofar, a kiddush cup, a hanukkiah, or an important book about Judaism. I planned to give two of these particularly special gifts to my grandniece and grandnephew, 13-year-old twins who were the children of a favored nephew who lives in Philadelphia. I was thinking of a shofar and a hanukkiah for them. I set out, as is my custom, to find a beautiful, meaningful hanukkiah as my gift.

Being a researcher at heart, I had been reading about the many synagogues in Poland, tragically lost during the Holocaust. I was fascinated and moved by all I had read!

Shouldn't I, the great-aunt of these special youngsters, be the one in the family to tell them, through example, the uniqueness and beauty of our religion? How, despite all tragedy, have we survived throughout the ages?

I concentrated on learning about those old synagogues and discovered I could purchase a hanukkiah built in the form of a replica of those old synagogues, now lost forever. That would be just perfect, I thought. I proceeded to explore a subject which was new to me.

I found the hanukkiah that spoke to me in the work of Maude Weisser, a ceramic artist from New York, now living and working in Rhode Island. The special hanukkiah she had made was created in "loving memory of the many diverse Jewish communities which existed in Europe prior to World War II."

Her model was carved in clay, molded in silicone, cast in hydrostone, then hand painted. I was happy to have found the perfect gift for one of the twins!

I was fascinated in learning about the wooden synagogues of Poland and Lithuania built between 1600 and 1800 during a time known as "The Golden Age of Polish Jewry". It was a time of peace and prosperity for Jews living in modern-day Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, and Poland. Considered historically important, these wooden synagogues were fashioned in the Baroque style and were decorated with elaborate wall paintings. Their exquisite artwork often depicted the everyday lives of shtetl dwellers, imagined visions of Jerusalem, and Torah teachings.



Hanukkiah made by artist, Maude Weisser, depicting synagogues of pre-World War II Europe.

Much like today, these synagogues fulfilled both the religious and social roles of the Jewish communities they served. More than 800 synagogues existed in Europe before World War I and II. In Poland virtually none are left. In Lithuania the few remaining are in great disrepair.

Even before World War II, many of these wooden synagogues already were the victims of damage and old age, but the Nazis attempt to wipe out Eastern European Jewry completed the destruction of these great treasures of Jewish culture.

Online, I viewed the reconstruction of a full scale replica of the Vopla Synagogue in Bilgoraj, located in what is now Belarus. Known as the most beautiful synagogue of its time, the video showed an artisan explaining the reconstruction of the structure and artwork of that now lost treasure.

I must note that on the campus of the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts are replicas of those wooden synagogues. Not as intricate as some of the ones I have read of, but they are examples of the houses of worship our forefathers prayed in.

"Lost Treasures: The Wooden Synagogues of Eastern Europe" by Bill Farran is a wonderful resource for anyone interested in learning more about the shuls of our ancestors. How lucky I am to have learned of these lost treasures, thanks to my curiosity about bygone times! The research opened up a world I knew nothing about. And in the process, I was able to find a beautiful hanukkiah!

Arlene Stolnitz, the "Jewish Music" contributor to Federation papers for the past eight years, has started a new series focusing on Judaic Folk Art. It will appear in Federation newspapers on an irregular basis. Arlene, a native of Rochester, New York, is a retired educator and lives in Venice, Florida.

Stars of David ... Continued from Page 31

"The Threesome" is a romantic "dramedy," releasing September 5. Here's the "official" capsule plot: "A young man's perennial crush leads him into an unexpected threesome; he thinks it's his ultimate fantasy come true. When the fantasy ends, all three are left with sobering real-world consequences, to take responsibility for their actions."

The "three" are played by **Jonah Hauer-King,** 30, **Zoey Deutch,** 30, and Ruby Cruz. Hauer-King is a handsome fellow whose biggest hit, to date, is "A Dog's Way Home." His British father isn't Jewish. His American mother is Jewish, and Jonah was raised Jewish. Deutch has worked steadily since 2014 but hasn't starred in a big hit. Her father is Jewish and her mother isn't. She was raised Jewish.

"Spinal Tap II :The End Continues," is a sequel to "This is Spinal Tap" (1984) a hilarious "mockumentary." It opens on September 12. Spinal Tap is the name of a British hard rock band that isn't very good. But, somehow, they attract some concert goers. **Rob Reiner,** 78, co-wrote the 1984 film, directed the film, and acted in the film as a reporter following the band.

The band members, and Reiner, co-wrote both films. The band members are **Harry Shearer,** 81, **Christopher Guest,** 76, and Michael McKean, 77. Guest's British father converted to Judaism when he married Guest's Jewish-American mother.

Fran Drescher, 67, has a big supporting role and Paul McCartney has a cameo role.

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JEWISH HAPPENINGS

THINGS TO DO IN THE SARASOTA-MANATEE AREA IN SEPTEMBER

recurring

Bereavement & Counseling

Ongoing
Jewish Connections offers bereavement programs and individual counseling in addition to visiting with loved ones on hospice or at the hospital. We offer financial assistance to those struggling with a rental payment, security deposit, or electric bill.
Contact: Rabbi Shayndel Kahn 941-366-2224 Ext.-166
For financial assistance contact: Rebecca Elton 941-366-2224 Ext.-115

CKIDS After School

Weekdays beginning September 8, 3:30-5:40 p.m., the Chabad House, 5712 Lorraine Road, Bradenton
CKIDS After School offers exciting workshops that allow children to dabble in different creative outlets, building skills, and making friends!
Cost: $300 per session / $150 for half session / $1500 Annual / Chabad Hebrew School students 10% off
Contact: Chabad of Bradenton & LWR 941-752-3030 info@ChabadofBradenton.com

JKidz Hebrew Club

Wednesdays beginning September 10, 5:00 p.m., Chabad of Sarasota & Manatee, 7700 Beneva Road, Sarasota
Jewish pride starts here! JKidz Hebrew Club provides a dynamic, hands-on Hebrew school experience for children aged five and above. From interactive learning to exciting holiday celebrations, children build a meaningful connection to Judaism in a fun and loving environment. Give your child a midweek dose of Jewish joy and identity!
Contact: Sara Steinmetz 941-925-0770 Sara@ChabadofSarasota.com

Ima & Me Weekly Meet Ups

Thursdays beginning September 4, 9:30 a.m., Chabad of Sarasota & Manatee, 7700 Beneva Road, Sarasota
Calling All Moms! Join other moms at Chabad of Sarasota & Manatee for a fantastic opportunity to spend quality time with your little one and connect with other new mothers in a warm and welcoming Jewish atmosphere. Ima and Me, led by Sara Steinmetz, is an enriching and supportive group, the perfect place to socialize, share the joys and challenges of motherhood, and build lasting friendships.
Free
Contact: Sara Steinmetz 941-925-0770 Sara@ChabadofSarasota.com

For a continually updated community calendar, please visit **jfedsrq.org/community-cal**

This program is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee



Chai Life Happy Hour

Tuesday, September 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Calusa Brewing, 5377 McIntosh Rd., Sarasota
Wind down the day and hang out with other working Jewish professionals! Security will be present.
Please register jfedsrq.org/events

SEPTEMBER 1 monday

Kids Pre-Rosh Hashanah Challah Bake

Monday, September 1, 1:00 p.m. Chabad of Sarasota & Manatee, 7700 Beneva Road, Sarasota
Join us at Chabad of Sarasota & Manatee for a joyful, family experience! We'll have "loaves" of fun making round challah from scratch for Rosh Hashanah, singing holiday songs, and enjoying fun apple treats, such as: apple sandwiches, apple nachos, and apple "donuts." Kids will also create beautiful holiday cards to send to family and friends.
$10 per child; $25 max per family; Event sponsor: $100
Contact: Sara Steinmetz 941-925-0770 Sara@ChabadofSarasota.com

SEPTEMBER 3 wednesday

Temple Emanu-El "Lunch with the Rabbis"

Wednesday, September 3, noon, Temple Emanu-El, 151 McIntosh Road, Sarasota
Are you looking for a great lunch date? Join Rabbi Brenner Glickman, Rabbi Michael Shefrin, and friendly, interesting companions for lunch, socializing, and discussion of current events and subjects of Jewish interest! All are invited to this popular, stimulating, and enjoyable program. Attendees are

Continued on Next Page

HOLIDAY SERVICE TIMES

PLEASE CHECK INDIVIDUAL WEBSITES. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

TRADITIONAL SERVICES

Chabad of Downtown SRQ, 332 Cocoanut Ave. #103, Sarasota

ROSH HASHANAH
Tuesday, September 23
Service: 9:30 a.m., Sermon & Shofar sounding: 10:45 a.m., Service: 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 24
Service: 9:30 a.m., Sermon & Shofar sounding: 10:45 a.m., Service: 1:00 p.m.
YOM KIPPUR
Wednesday, October 1
Kol Nidrei: 6:45 p.m.
Thursday, October 2
Service: 10:00 a.m., Yizkor: 11:45 a.m., Mincha/Neila: 5:30 p.m., Buffet Break-Fast: 7:49 p.m.

Chabad of LWR/Bradenton, All services to take place at The Grove on Lakewood Ranch Main Street, Bradenton

ROSH HASHANAH
Monday, September 22
Services: 7:00 p.m., CKIDS: 7:00 p.m., A Taste of Rosh Hashanah immediately following services
Tuesday, September 23
Services: 9:30 a.m., CKIDS: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Shofar Sounding: 11:30 a.m., Afternoon Service: 6:45 p.m., Tashlich: 7:00 p.m., Evening Services: 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 24
Services: 9:30 a.m., CKIDS: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Shofar Sounding: 11:30 a.m.
YOM KIPPUR
Wednesday, October 1
Services: 9:30 a.m., Kol Nidrei: 7:00 p.m., CKIDS: 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 2
Services: 9:30 a.m., CKIDS: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Yizkor: 11:00 a.m., Afternoon Service: 5:45 p.m., Neilah Closing Service: 6:45 p.m., Followed by Break-the-Fast Buffet

Chabad of Sarasota & Manatee, 7700 Beneva Road, Sarasota

ROSH HASHANAH
Monday, September 22
Service: 7:00 p.m., Community Dinner: 7:45 p.m.*
Tuesday, September 23
Service: 10:00 a.m., Children's Play & Play/Babysitting 10:00 a.m., Tashlich & Shofar Blowing 6:00 p.m., Community Dinner at 7:45 p.m.*
Wednesday, September 24
Beginners Service: 9:30-10:30 a.m., Service: 10:00 a.m., Children's Play & Play/Babysitting: 10:00 a.m.
YOM YIPPUR
Wednesday, October 1
Kol Nidrei: 6:30 p.m., Children's Play/Babbysitting: 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 2
Yizkor: 9:00 a.m., Children's Play/Babysitting: 10:00 a.m., Mincha/Neilah: 5:00 p.m., Break-the-Fast: 7:49 p.m.

Chabad of Venice & Northport, 21560 Angela Lane, Venice

ROSH HASHANAH
Monday, September 22
Service: 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 23
Service: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, September 24
Service: 10:30 a.m.
YOM YIPPUR
Wednesday, October 1
Kol Nidrei: 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 2
Service: 11:00 a.m.

CONSERVATIVE SERVICES

Temple Beth Sholom, 1050 S. Tuttle Ave. Bldg. 2, Sarasota

ROSH HASHANAH
Saturday, September 13
Selichot: 8:00 p.m.
Monday, September 22
Rosh Hashanah Eve: 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 23
Service: 9:00 a.m., Tashlich: 5:00 p.m. (Arlington Park Pond)
Wednesday, September 24
Service: 9:00 a.m.
YOM KIPPUR
Wednesday, October 1
Kol Nidre: 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 2
Service: 9:00 a.m., Evening Service: 5:30 p.m.

Continued on Next Page

*Tickets or advanced registration required for this service or event, please contact the congregation

Continued from Previous Page

asked to bring a brown-bag lunch; delicious homemade dessert and terrific company will be provided!
Free
SarasotaTemple.org

SEPTEMBER 4 thursday

Temple Emanu-El Mitzvah Knitting Group

Thursday, September 4, 10:00 a.m., Temple Emanu-El, 151 McIntosh Road, Sarasota
The Mitzvah Knitting Group gathers the first and third Thursday every month to craft and socialize. Our handiwork is donated to new parents as well as needy families in Sarasota-Manatee and in Israel. Bring your needles or crochet hook and a favorite pattern, we'll supply the yarn and great company!
Free
Contact: lklein98@gmail.com

"Lunch and Learn" with Barbara Field

Thursday, September 4, 12:30 p.m., Temple Emanu-El (TEE), 151 McIntosh Road, Sarasota
The Sisterhood of TEE is delighted to host this special afternoon with Barbara Field. In addition to her expertise in content creation, journalism, and corporate marketing, Field specializes in guided memoir writing through "Writing Life Stories." Bring a brown-bag lunch and let Field help you record stories to instruct, enrich, and inspire future generations.
Free
Registration requested
SarasotaTemple.org

SEPTEMBER 5 friday

Temple Sinai Open House and Rhythm and Jews Erev Shabbat Service

Friday, September 5, 5:00 p.m., 4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Road (enter only from Proctor Road), Sarasota
Join us at Erev Shabbat and get to know our clergy, Rabbi Michael Cohen and Chazzan Cliff Abramson, socialize with friends, drink some wine, and eat some goodies. The Rhythm and Jews Erev Shabbat service adds to the joy and beauty of Shabbat.
TempleSinai-Sarasota.org

SEPTEMBER 6 saturday

Prepare for a Jewish New Year at KH

Saturday, September 6, 12:30 p.m., Hershorin Schiff Community Day School, 4335 Wilkinson Rd., Sarasota
Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Sigal. All are welcome at Kol HaNeshama (KH)! Bring your bag lunch. Delicious homemade dessert will be provided. "Teshuvah," turn and return to the home of our soul.
Registration requested
941-244-2042
KHsarasota.org

SEPTEMBER 7 sunday

Books and Bagels at KH

Sunday, September 7, 10:00 a.m., on Zoom
"Songs for the Brokenhearted: A Novel." In this debut work of fiction, Ayelet Tsabari explores the eternal bond between a mother and daughter. Mem-

bers of Kol HaNeshama's (KH) monthly book club, will discuss.
Registration requested
941-244-2042
KHsarasota.org

"Sundae with the Rabbis" Open House at TEE

Sunday, September 7, 2:00-4:00 p.m., TEE, 151 McIntosh Road, Sarasota
Temple Emanu-El (TEE) wishes the entire community a sweet new year! All are welcome to share yummy ice cream treats and meet the wonderful TEE family: Our four rabbis, Executive Director, Director of Education, Susan Schwaid Early Learning Center Director, Temple leadership, members, and families.
Free
Registration requested
SarasotaTemple.org

SEPTEMBER 8 monday



Creations with Hila Sip and Craft Workshop

Monday, September 8, 7:00 p.m., 5150 Peridia Blvd. E., Bradenton
Join the women of Temple Beth El for a wonderful evening creating personalized Jewish home blessings in Hebrew. Bring your favorite wine or adult beverage. Snacks provided. Open to all.
$15 cash at the door
Advanced Registration required by Sept. 3
robyntbe@gmail.com
BethEl-fl.org

SEPTEMBER 9 tuesday

Chai Life Happy Hour

Tuesday, September 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Calusa Brewing & Taproom, 5377 McIntosh Rd., Sarasota
See description on page 29.

CTeen Slip into the Year

Tuesday, September 9, 7:00 p.m., the Chabad House, 5712 Lorraine Road, Bradenton
Slide into the year with slip 'n' slide, kickball, and a scrumptious slider bar. Get to know local Jewish teens!
$25 / CTeen Members Free / CTeen Membership $225
Contact: Chabad of Bradenton & LWR 941-752-3030
info@ChabadofBradenton.com

SEPTEMBER 11 thursday

Rosh Hashanah Reflections, Recipes & Round Challah

Thursday, September 11, 7:00 p.m., Chabad of Sarasota & Manatee, 7700 Beneva Road, Sarasota
Join the Chabad Women's Circle to kick off the new year with meaning, warmth, and connection. Sara Steinmetz will share inspiring thoughts and a few special recipes to enhance your holiday menu. Women will enjoy making beautiful round challahs.
Free for Chabad Women's Circle members; $18 for non-members; Sponsor: $100; Impact Sponsor: $250
Contact: Sara Steinmetz 941-925-0770
Sara@ChabadofSarasota.com

HOLIDAY SERVICE TIMES

PLEASE CHECK INDIVIDUAL WEBSITES. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

REFORM SERVICES

Temple Beth El, 5150 Peridia Blvd., East Bradenton

ROSH HASHANAH
Monday, September 22
Erev Rosh Hashanah: 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 23
Service: 10:00 a.m., Tashlich, 6:30 p.m. (Jiggs Landing)
YOM KIPPUR
Wednesday, October 1
Service: 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 2
Service: 10:00 a.m., Yizkor: 12:30 p.m., Neilah: 4:30 p.m.

Temple Beth Israel, 567 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key

ROSH HASHANAH
Saturday, September 13
Selichot: 6:30 p.m.
Monday, September 22
Service: 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 23
Service: 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, September 27
Tashlich: 10:00 a.m.
YOM KIPPUR
Wednesday, October 1
Kol Nidre: 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 2
Service: 10:00 a.m., Study: 1:00 p.m., Afternoon Service: 3:30 p.m., Yizkor & Neilah: 5:00 p.m., Break-the-Fast: 6:00 p.m.

Temple Emanu-El (TEE), 151 McIntosh Road, Sarasota

ROSH HASHANAH
Saturday, September 13
Selichot: 7:30 p.m.
Monday, September 22
Service: 7:30 p.m.*
Tuesday, September 23
Service: 10:00 a.m.*, Family Service: 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 24
Study & Discussion: 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, September 27
Tashlich: 6:30 p.m. (Van Wezel & Benderson Park)
Sunday, September 28
Cemetery Service: 11:00 a.m. (Palms Memorial)
YOM KIPPUR
Wednesday, October 1
Kol Nidre: 7:30 p.m.*+
Thursday, October 2
Service: 10:00 a.m.*+, Discussion: 12:15 p.m.+, Family Service: 1:30 p.m.+, Mincha Service: 3:15 p.m.+, Yizkor: 4:30 p.m.+, Ne'ilah: 5:30 p.m.+

Temple Sinai, 4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Road, Sarasota

ROSH HASHANAH
Saturday, September 13
Selichot: 6:15 p.m.
Monday, September 22
Service: 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 23
Service: 10:30 a.m., Family Service: 1:30 p.m., Tashlich: 5:00 p.m. (Turtle Beach Pavilion)
Wednesday, September 24
Service: 10:30 a.m.
YOM KIPPUR
Wednesday, October 1
Kol Nidre: 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 2
Service: 10:30 a.m., Family Service: 1:30 p.m., Talk Back: 3:00 p.m., Yizkor/Afternoon Service: 4:30, Neilah: 5:30 p.m., Break-the-Fast: 6:30 p.m.

INDEPENDENT CONGREGATION SERVICES

Jewish Congregation of Venice, 600 North Auburn Road, Venice

ROSH HASHANAH
Sunday, September 14
Selichot Service: 10:00 a.m.*
Monday, September 22
Erev Rosh Hashanah: 7:30 p.m.*
Tuesday, September 23
Service: 10:00 a.m.*, Luncheon: 1:00 p.m.*
Wednesday, September 24
Tashlich: 10:00 a.m.* (Venice beach)
YOM KIPPUR
Wednesday, October 1
Service: 7:00 p.m.*
Thursday, October 2
Service: 10:00 a.m.*, Reflections: 4:30 p.m.*, Yizkor: 5:30 p.m., Neilah: 6:00 p.m.*, Break-the-Fast: 6:45 p.m.*

Continued on Page 37

*Tickets or advanced registration required for this service or event, please contact the congregation. +Nonperishable food donation requested



SEPTEMBER 12 friday

Open House Shabbat

Friday, September 12, 5:30 p.m., Hershorin Schiff Community Day School, 4335 Wilkinson Rd., Sarasota

Begin your preparations for the New Year and get to know new friends at Congregation Kol HaNeshama. All are welcome! Wine and cheese reception and a musical Kabbalat Shabbat.

Registration requested
941-244-2042
KHsarasota.org

SEPTEMBER 13 saturday

"Rosh Hashanah Tot Shabbat" at TEE

Saturday, September 13, 10:00 a.m., Temple Emanu-El (TEE), 151 McIntosh Road, Sarasota

Young Jewish and interfaith families are warmly invited to celebrate Shabbat joyfully! In addition to outdoor and indoor playtime, snacks, crafts, a themed photo corner, age-appropriate Shabbat prayers, songs, and stories, and birthday blessings with Rabbi Michael Shefrin and "Ms. Marni" Mount, we'll get into the Rosh Hashanah spirit with apples, honey, shofar time, and more. Shabbat Shalom and Shanah Tovah!

Free
Registration requested
SarasotaTemple.org

Temple Sinai Selichot Dessert Reception & Service

Saturday, September 13, 6:15 p.m. 4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Road (enter only from Proctor Road), Sarasota

Selichot, a Hebrew word meaning "forgiveness," refers to the special penitential prayers recited throughout the High Holy Days. It indicates that the High Holy Days are coming. Join Temple Sinai congregants and members of the community at a festive Selichot dessert reception and service led by Rabbi Michael Cohen and Chazzan Cliff Abramson. Open to the community.

Free
TempleSinai-Sarasota.org

SEPTEMBER 14 sunday



Temple Sinai's Threads of Tikva Knitting Session

Sunday, September 14, 10:00 a.m. 4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Road (enter only from Proctor Road), Sarasota

All knitters are invited to join us for a casual drop-in knitting session as part of Temple Sinai's Threads of Tikva, a meaningful project providing hand-knit beanies for soldiers in the Israeli Defense Force. These caps offer warmth during cold desert nights and serve as a powerful reminder that they are supported from afar. Project Chair Alyssa Mandel will be available to provide guidance, refresh your skills, or teach beginners.

TempleSinai-Sarasota.org

Family Shofar Factory

Sunday, September 14, 2:00 p.m. Community Day School Campus 4335 Wilkinson Road, Sarasota

Get into the spirit of Rosh Hashanah! Make your own Shofar

at the Community Shofar Factory! This special opportunity, co-sponsored by Chabad of Sarasota and the Community Day School, will provide a fun afternoon for the whole family. Reserve your spot.
One free shofar per family. Additional shofars/$20 each
Reservations required
Contact: Chabad office
CommunityDay.org/ShofarFactory

SEPTEMBER 16
tuesday

Jewish Singles

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., Apollonia Grill-Sarasota, 4956 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

The Sarasota Jewish Singles is an outreach program of Beth Israel of Longboat Key that gives Jewish Singles in the Sarasota-Manatee area the opportunity to meet other single men and women.
Contact: Rosalyn Fleischer 941-915-6631
rozfleischer@gmail.com

JWC Shabbat in an Hour

Tuesday, September 16, 7:00 p.m., the Chabad House, 5712 Lorraine Road, Bradenton
Discover quick Shabbos cooking hacks and enjoy tasting delicious recipes!
$36 / $5 discount for Jewish Women's Circle (JWC) Members. Sponsor $180
Space is limited. Reservations needed by September 8.
Contact: Chabad of Bradenton & LWR 941-752-3030
info@ChabadofBradenton.com

SEPTEMBER 17
wednesday

Shofar Sound Lab

Wednesday, September 17, 5:00 p.m., Chabad of Sarasota & Manatee, 7700 Beneva Road, Sarasota
Children aged four and up, along with their parents, are welcome to join the JKIdz Hebrew Club for an exciting pre-Rosh Hashanah Shofar Sound Lab event. Children will step into the Shofar Sound Lab with sound-activated bracelets and a sweet Rosh Hashanah treat to take home. Get ready to uncover the jaw-dropping secrets of the shofar!
Free
Reservations required
Contact: Sara Steinmetz
941-925-0770
Sara@ChabadofSarasota.com

SEPTEMBER 21
sunday

Temple Beth El at the LWR Farmers Market

Sunday, September 21, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Waterside Place, Lakewood Ranch
The Farmers Market at Lakewood Ranch (LWR) is home to more than 100 curated vendors of the region's best food and flavors. Come have something to eat and drink, check out all the vendors, listen to live music, stop by the Temple Beth El booth to say "Shalom", and so much more.
941-755-4900
BethEl-fl.org

Continued on Page 38

HOLIDAY SERVICE TIMES

PLEASE CHECK INDIVIDUAL WEBSITES. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

INDEPENDENT CONGREGATIONS CONTINUED

Congregation Kol HaNeshama, all services at Pelican Cove Pavilion, 1618 Pelican Cove Road, Sarasota. KHsarasota.org

ROSH HASHANAH
Saturday, September 13
Selichot: 7:30 p.m.
Monday, September 22
Service: 6:00 p.m., Dinner: 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday September 23
Service: 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, September 24
Service: 10:00 a.m.
YOM KIPPUR
Wednesday, October 1
Kol Nidre: 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 2
Service: 10:00 a.m., Yizkor: 6:00 p.m., Neilah: 6:45 p.m., Havdalah & Shofar: 7:30 p.m. followed by Break-the-Fast meal

The Humanistic Havurah, Unitarian Universalist of Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd., Lexow Room, Sarasota. Please RSVP: HHSRQ@iCloud.com

ROSH HASHANAH
Tuesday, September 23
Service: 10:30 a.m.
YOM KIPPUR
Thursday, October 2
Service: 3:00 p.m.

Open Door Services organized by Ivrim Jews Without Borders

ROSH HASHANAH
Tuesday, September 23
Service: 10:00 a.m.
at Community Day School, 4335 Wilkinson Rd., Sarasota
Wednesday, September 24
Service: 9:00 a.m., (on the sand at The Bay Park, 1055 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota)
YOM KIPPUR
at Community Day School, 4335 Wilkinson Rd., Sarasota
Wednesday, October 1
Kol Nidre: 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 2
Service: 10:00 a.m.

*Tickets or advanced registration required for this service or event, please contact the congregation. +Nonperishable food donation requested



Continued from Previous Page



Lakewood Ranch Farmers Market

This program is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

Sunday, September 21, 10:00-2:00 p.m., Waterside Place, 1561 Lakefront Drive, Sarasota
Learn about Federation's upcoming events, our impact in the community, and ways you can get involved. Security will be present.

SEPTEMBER 22
monday

A Taste of Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 22, 7:00 p.m., the Grove, 10670 Boardwalk Loop Lane, Bradenton
Celebrate the first night of Rosh Hashanah with family and friends at Chabad of Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch. The Taste of Rosh Hashanah buffet will take place after services and feature traditional Rosh Hashanah foods.
Cost: $36 (suggested donation). Sponsor for $540
Contact: Chabad of Bradenton & LWR 941-752-3030 info@ChabadofBradenton.com

SEPTEMBER 23
tuesday

Temple Sinai Rosh Hashanah Family Service

Tuesday, September 23, 1:30 p.m. 4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Road (enter only from Proctor Road), Sarasota
Temple Sinai's Rabbi Michael Cohen, Chazzan Cliff Abramson, Laura Freedman, Director of Early Childhood Education, Michele Read, Director of Youth Education, and the entire Temple Sinai community welcome everyone to an interactive Rosh Hashanah family service with music, singing, crafts, fun activities, and snacks. This awesome event is designed for children of all ages and their families.
TempleSinai-Sarasota.org

Temple Sinai Celebrates Tashlich Together!

Tuesday, September 23, 5:00 p.m., 4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Road (enter only from Proctor Road), Sarasota
Come together and join Temple Sinai's Rabbi Michael Cohen and Chazzan Cliff Abramson at a ceremonial reflection of the past year and symbolic casting away of our regrets and sins. Bring your dinner. Dessert will be provided. All are welcome!
TempleSinai-Sarasota.org

SEPTEMBER 29
friday

"Ageless Grace with Judith" at TEE

Monday, September 29, 10:30 a.m., Temple Emanu-El (TEE), 151 McIntosh Road, Sarasota
The Adult Education Committee of TEE and Judith Koziol warmly invite the community to this energizing, fun class that will have you movin', groovin', and feeling terrific, all while sitting in your chair. You'll have a great time as you enhance your flexibility, imagination, balance, and memory.
Free
Registration requested
SarasotaTemple.org



From the Desert to Today: Sukkot's Message Matters

Education Corner



By Sara Steinmetz
Chabad of Sarasota and Manatee

Last year's Yom Kippur was anything but typical. Do you remember how we were out of power because of the hurricanes? It was one of those moments that felt like a direct message from above: G-d is in control. Even on the holiest day of the year, when synagogues are usually full and everything runs like clockwork, He reminded us that, ultimately, we're not the ones running the show.

As we step into this year's holiday season, we begin with the solemn and awe-filled days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and then transition into the joy of Sukkot. However Sukkot isn't just a joyful celebration, it carries two powerful and timely messages.

First, Sukkot teaches us to build trust in Hashem. We step outside the comfort of our homes and into a temporary hut, the Sukkah, with a simple roof of branches. It's vulnerable, open, and far from secure in a physical sense, but spiritually, it's the safest place we could be. The Sukkah reminds us that our true protection and provision come from Above, just as our ancestors were protected by the clouds of glory, sustained by the manna, and refreshed by the miraculous well of Miriam.

Second, Sukkot reminds us that while materialism can make our lives more comfortable, it should never become the focus of our lives. As we leave behind our perfectly lit homes and plush furniture to sit in a simple, sometimes shaky Sukkah, we're reminded that what truly matters isn't what we have, but who we are with. Family, community, connection, and love should always come first.

Our children are watching. They hear the news, sometimes about the ongoing war in Israel or other frightening events, and they absorb much more than we realize. That's why this season is so important. We can't control everything, but we can model trust. We can talk (in age-appropriate ways) about the miracles our people have experienced and how Hashem continues to guide and protect us.

And if you, as a parent or grandparent, are still working on building that trust, that's more than okay. It's a process. Trust is like a muscle; the more we use it, the stronger it becomes. Take one small step: add a moment of prayer, gratitude, or learning to your day. Make space for more spirit in a world so filled with stuff.

This Sukkot, whether or not, you

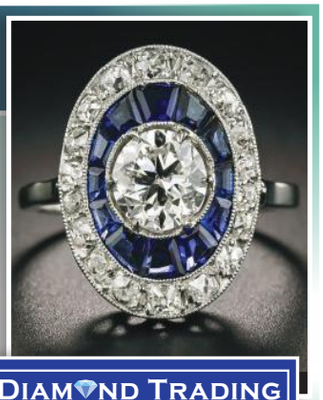
Continued on Page 41

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Are you ready for 5786?

Rabbi Dr. Stuart Altshuler & Cantor Neal Taibel invite you to join us at Temple Beth Sholom as we usher in the High Holy Days.



Yom Kippur Services
Kol Nidre
Wednesday, Oct. 1 at 7:00 pm
Morning - Oct. 2
Morning Service at 9:00 am
including Yizkor Service
at approx. 11:00 am
Afternoon - Oct. 2
Rabbi Altshuler Q&A at 4:30 pm
Mincha & Neilah at 5:30 pm
Shofar Blowing at 7:51 pm
Break-The-Fast at 7:55 pm
(registrations required, a FREE takeaway option will be available)

Rosh Hashanah Services
Rosh Hashanah Eve
Monday, Sept. 22 at 6:00 pm
L'Shanah Tova 5786
Rosh Hashanah Days
Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 9:00 am
Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 9:00 am

Tashlich Service
at Arlington Park
Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 5:00 pm
Kever Avot
at TBS' Cemetery
Sunday, Sept. 28 at 10:00 am

For more information and tickets, contact Kelly Nester (kelly@tbssrq.org)
Don't forget to ask about our Special Youth Services

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Make 5786 the Year of Temple Emanu-El Tot Shabbat

Submitted by Temple Emanu-El

Summer was filled with lazy, relaxing days and happy family adventures, but for Temple Emanu-El, it was also filled with excited planning for another year of meaningful programming for all ages. Temple Emanu-El's Tot Shabbat not only introduces young Jewish and interfaith families to the joys of Jewish life, but also creates a warm, welcoming community of new and old friends. Tot Shabbat is designed especially for families with children up to age 6; and, thanks to an anonymous "angel" donor, is free and open to all!

All Tot Shabbats are held on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. at Temple Emanu-El (unless noted otherwise) and include: indoor and outdoor playtime, snacks, crafts, a themed photo corner, birthday blessings, and age-appropriate songs, prayers, movement, and stories with Rabbi Michael Shefrin and Tot Shabbat Coordinator "Ms. Marni" Mount. We hope little ones, and their grownups, will save the dates for these special celebrations:

- **Saturday, September 13:** Get in the Rosh Hashanah spirit with apples, honey, and shofar time at Rosh Hashanah/Welcome Back Tot Shabbat.
- **Saturday, October 11:** Celebrate Shabbat and Sukkot with time in Temple Emanu-El's beautiful sukkah, a sukkah craft, and lulav and etrog time at Sukkot Tot Shabbat.
- **Saturday, November 15:** As Thanksgiving approaches, celebrate fall and all of our blessings at Gratitude Tot Shabbat.
- **Saturday, December 13:** Get ready for the Festival of Lights at this dreidel-and-gelt-filled Hanukkah Tot Shabbat!
- **Saturday, January 24, 2026:** Celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the Birthday of the Trees, with a special Tot Shabbat at Dakin Dairy Farms.
- **Saturday, February 28, 2026:** Debut your Purim costume (maybe a pirate?) at Purim Tot Shabbat at Bayfront Park's Pirate Playground.
- **Saturday, March 28, 2026:** Why is this Tot Shabbat different from all other Tot Shabbats? Hint: It's Temple Emanu-El's annual Passover Tot Shabbat!
- **Saturday, April 18, 2026:** Celebrate Shabbat and Yom Ha'atzmaut at this special Happy Birthday Israel Tot Shabbat.
- **Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.:** Dress up fancy with your favorite grown-ups for a Prom Night-themed Tot Shabbat Havdalah.

Continued on Next Page



Emma made a splash at Temple Emanu-El's Splash Shabbat last June.





The Gan Summer Camp Educates While Having Fun

Submitted by Temple Sinai

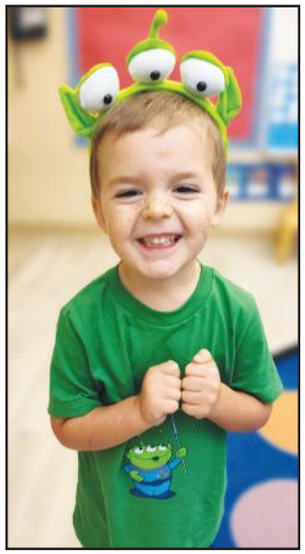
Every summer, The Gan at Temple Sinai delights young campers with a fun, interactive camp experience that gives them an extraordinary way to learn while having a wonderful time. Campers enjoy themselves while participating in a wide range of activities, with captivating themes and special events to fill their busy days. The Gan camp focuses on the whole child by integrating tools to promote growth in social and emotional intelligence as well as academics.

Teachers plan: arts and crafts, visits to the science lab for experiments, exploration and discovery, visits to the outdoor classroom, music and movement, and circle time. The activities revolve around weekly themes such as Dino Days, Under the Sea, a Bug's Life, Rainforest, Visit from Mote Marine, and Gan Camping. Laura Freedman, Director of Early Childhood Education, entertains the children with her upbeat, engaging weekly story time. The children enjoy the art, games, stories, water play, and dress-up parade days, and do not even realize how much they are learning because they are having a great time in summer camp. After all, it is still camp.

Camp Gan has something to offer every camper to make it a happy time and a wonderful learning experience. Director Laura says, "These kids are proud that they can do so much by the end of the summer because of what they have learned at camp. We are proud of all the wonderful things The Gan Camp offers our students."







Above: The Gan Alien Having Fun. Top left: The Gan Under the Sea. Lower left: Water Play Wednesdays.

Make 5786 ... Continued from Previous Page

• **Saturday, June 20, 2026:** Celebrate Shabbat while cooling off at the Waterside Place Splash Pad at Temple Emanu-El's annual Splash Shabbat!

Temple Emanu-El wishes young families a "shanah tovah," a year filled with sweetness, goodness, and the joys of Tot Shabbat!

From the Desert to Today ... Continued from Page 39

have a Sukkah in your backyard, take time to reflect on these timeless messages. Because even when the comforts we rely on fall away, we're never without what matters most: the love of our families, the strength of our community, and the steady presence of Hashem by our side.

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The Shared Ideals of Labor Day and Rosh Hashanah



From the Bimah

By Rabbi Marci Vitkus
Jewish Congregation of Venice

The Jewish community has a deep historical and philosophical connection to Labor Day, rooted in both the immigrant experience and core Jewish values.

Labor Day, which recognizes the contributions and achievements of workers, can be seen as a "national Shabbat," a day of rest to honor work and workers, while also emphasizing the importance of balance and rest.

The Torah repeatedly stresses the importance of treating workers with dignity and fairness. The Torah states, "You shall not defraud your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until morning." (Leviticus 19:13). This emphasis resonates with the goals of the labor movement, which sought to secure fair wages, safe working conditions, and respect for workers.

Many Jewish immigrants, facing harsh working conditions in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, found empowerment in labor unions. Jewish figures, like Samuel Gompers and Sidney Hillman, played pivotal roles in establishing and leading major unions like the American Federation of Labor and International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. These unions championed "social unionism," establishing community resources and advocating for social justice beyond the workplace.

> "Rosh Hashanah prompts us to reflect on the purpose of our lives, which includes our work and contributions to the world."

As we set upon preparing for the "Yamim Noraim," Days of Awe, we can take these lessons with us.

Rosh Hashanah, a time for introspection, reflection, and planning for the future, calls for rededicating oneself to living a meaningful life, guided by ethical principles.

Both Labor Day and Rosh Hashanah offer opportunities for renewed commitment.

Labor Day reminds us to value work and acknowledge the vital role it plays in building society. Rosh Hashanah prompts us to reflect on the purpose of our lives, which includes our work and contributions to the world. Labor Day encourages us to treat others with respect in the workplace, ensuring fair treatment for all, while Rosh Hashanah emphasizes seeking to improve our relationships and impact on the world in the coming year.

The ideals of the labor movement, to create a more just and equitable society, align with the Jewish concept of "tikkun olam," repairing the world. Rosh Hashanah encourages us to dedicate ourselves to acting for a better world, where justice and righteousness prevail.

In essence, these two seemingly disparate holidays are linked by a shared emphasis on work, ethics, and the responsibility to build a better world for all.

Good news! Labor Day falls on September 1, giving us an extra nudge to prepare for Rosh Hashanah which begins at sundown on September 22. Happy Labor Day and "Shana Tova," … a good and sweet year!

SAVE THE DATE
ENGAGE EVENTS
For 2025-26

NOV 16 — A GRATEFUL HEART
1:30 pm -3:00 pm
Dress to impress and join us for a celebration of books and literacy. Enjoy a gratitude-focused storytelling session and a kid-friendly cocktail party. Hosted on the Jewish Federation Campus. (Ages 18m - 3rd Grade)

JAN 19 — SMALL HANDS GIVE BACK
10 am - 1 pm
Join us for a day of service and Mitzvot. Projects appropriate for students grades K-3rd. Event Kick-off at Community Day School with projects at various sites in the community

MAR 08 — BEYOND THE BOOK
1:30 pm -3:00 pm
Imagination and creativity are essential for learning. Join us for a literary costume party! Dress as your favorite literary character. Hosted in the library at Community Day School (Grades K-3rd)

MAY 31 — SUMMER ICE CREAM SOCIAL
1:30 pm -3:00 pm
We again focus on thankfulness as we end the school year and celebrate summer. Join us for storytime during a playdate at Urfer park. Yummy cool treats provided. (Ages 18m - 3rd Grade)

These events are a vibrant celebration of literacy and community, brought to you in partnership between **Community Day School** and **PJ Library**. They are designed to ignite a passion for reading and storytelling among children and families, fostering a lifelong love for books and education.

RSVP TO ATTEND
https://forms.gle/88QJ35zIk1DDm8yeA

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www.communityday.org
PJ Library
Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee
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For men: 941-484-2790
For women: 941-346-6446
1050 S. Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34237

september anniversaries

65th, Loretta & Paul Rabin
Temple Beth Sholom
60th, Michael & Diane Meyer
Temple Emanu-El
60th, Brenda & Herbert Schimmel
Kol HaNeshama
60th, Arthur & Sandra Skop
Temple Emanu-El
50th, Rhoda & Stuart Friedman
Temple Emanu-El
40th, Ansel & Janet Schwartz
Temple Emanu-El
35th, Stephen & Judith Simons
Temple Emanu-El

30th, Stacy & Benjamin Hanan
Temple Beth Sholom
30th, Michael & Leslie Podolsky
Temple Emanu-El
25th, Harvey and Barbara Feltquate
Jewish Congregation of Venice
25th, Alyssa Mandel & Brian Gomien
Temple Sinai
25th, Amy & David Meese
Temple Emanu-El
25th, Rose Marie & Alan Naselsky
Jewish Congregation of Venice
20th, Lisa Klein & Lance Karp
Temple Sinai

august anniversary

50th, Betty & Donald Cahall
Temple Sinai

b'not mitvah

Alexandra Jefferson, daughter of Tammy & Chris Jefferson, granddaughter of Sherri & Harold Kaufman, September 6
Temple Emanu-El

in memoriam

Laura Denenholtz, 78, of Sarasota, July 21
Seymour Haftel, 95, of Sarasota, June 30
Pamela Hahlbeck, 82, of Sarasota, formerly of Madison, WI, July 5
Lloyd Kalisak, 84, of Sarasota, formerly of Aurora and Ottawa, IL, July 16
Susan Lowy, 74, of Sarasota, June 16
Don Moreaux, 79, of Venice, formerly of Roswell, GA, July 21
Robin (Robert) Radin, 83, of Sarasota and Chautauqua, NY, July 18
Clifford Simons, 86, of Dade City, FL and Stafford Springs, CT, June 20

Submit your life cycle events (births, B'not Mitzvah, anniversaries) to jewishnews@jfedsrq.org. Photos welcome for births, weddings, engagements and B'nai Mitzvah; please email as JPGs at 300dpi.

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The *Jewish News* of Sarasota-Manatee now offers paid **Tribute Obituaries**, which allow you to share additional information about the life and legacy of a loved one who has passed. Tribute Obituaries are also appropriate for anniversaries of one's passing.

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