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FROM THE BOARD & STAFF OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION



L'CHAYIM

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September 2026 / 5786/5787

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Volume 49, Number 1

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New Single Mingle Group

Are you an older Jewish single looking for opportunities to connect, build friendships and participate in engaging social activities? Page 6

Lunch Bunch is Back

Join us for a Sukkot catered luncheon Sept. 29. Meet members of the Israeli Teen Delegation and build meaningful connections while celebrating Sukkot together. Page 9

Designer Bag Bingo!

This Oct. 25. event promises designer handbags, friendly competition, great prizes and plenty of laughter. Page 9

For the most current news and articles on the war in Israel, please visit our website at JewishFederationLCC.org.

This New Year - WE CAN MEET THE MOMENT

Your Gift. Our Community. Lasting Impact.

Unprecedented challenges can become extraordinary opportunities through your commitment.

Every day, the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties strengthens Jewish life, cares for those in need, and ensures our community remains vibrant, secure, and connected. Only the Federation transforms your individual gift into collective impact—meeting needs locally, in Israel, and around the world.

SPARK JEWISH CONNECTION

From preschoolers to seniors, we create opportunities to learn, celebrate, and connect through meaningful Jewish experiences.

By bringing people together through education, leadership, cultural programs, and community celebrations, we inspire lifelong Jewish identity, pride, and belonging.

SHIELD OUR COMMUNITY

The safety of our Jewish community is our highest priority.

Your support helps invest in security, emergency preparedness, security training, and partnerships with law enforcement to ensure our synagogues, schools, and community spaces remain safe and welcoming for all.

REBUILD LIVES

When people face crisis, the Federation is there.

Locally and in Israel, we provide vital social services, food assistance, education, emergency relief, and support for vulnerable children, families, seniors, and Holocaust survivors. Together, we bring hope, healing, and opportunity to those who need it most.

YOUR GIFT MAKES ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE.

When you give to the Jewish Federation, you are investing in a stronger Jewish future.

Please make your most generous gift today. Together, we can meet this moment—and build a stronger tomorrow.

Wishes for a happy and healthy new year ahead!

Debbie Sanford
Executive Director

Sherri Zucker
Campaign Chair



Jewish Federation
of Lee & Charlotte Counties

Keep an eye on your mailbox — our Annual Campaign pledge request is on its way.
You can also make your pledge anytime at JewishFederationlcc.org/annual-campaign.



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

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

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**OCTOBER ISSUE
 EDITORIAL
 DEADLINE:
 Friday, September 4**



OUR MISSION

To strengthen and enrich the Jewish Community by providing and supporting philanthropic, educational and social service programs locally, in Israel and throughout the world.

OUR VISION

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

The Sarajevo Haggadah's enduring message

By Karin Fine, President of Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties

As we prepare to celebrate the New Year, I find myself reflecting on a journey that transported me back through centuries of Jewish history. In June, I traveled with a group to Bosnia and Herzegovina, where we visited the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, home to the original Sarajevo Haggadah — one of the world's most beautiful and significant illuminated Hebrew manuscripts.

Created in 14th century Spain, the Sarajevo Haggadah accompanied the Jewish community through some of



Karin Fine

only as a priceless work of Jewish art but also as a symbol of resilience, faith and the enduring commitment of people who recognized its importance and protected it across generations.

Standing before a manuscript that is more than 650 years old was a profoundly moving experience. It was impossible not to feel connected to the generations of Jews who gathered around its pages at Passover Seders, retelling the story of our people's journey from slavery to freedom. The Haggadah's own remarkable survival mirrors the story of the Jewish people: despite exile, persecution and hardship, our traditions have endured, and our faith has remained strong.

As we welcome the New Year, the Sarajevo Haggadah reminds us that our history is not simply something we remember — it is something we carry with us. It challenges us to honor the sacrifices of those who came before us by strengthening our own commitment to Jewish life, learning and community.



history's darkest chapters. Following the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492, it eventually found its way to Sarajevo, where it was carefully preserved. During World War II, courageous museum officials risked their lives to hide the Haggadah from the Nazis, ensuring its survival.

Decades later, during the siege of Sarajevo in the 1990s, it was once again safeguarded despite the dangers surrounding the city. Today, it stands not

May this New Year bring blessings of peace, health and hope to all. May we continue to draw strength from our shared heritage and, together, go from strength to strength.

Shanah Tovah U'Metukah — wishing you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and sweet New Year. 🌟

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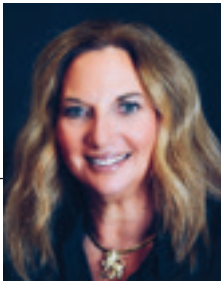
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Read the current and recent
 issues of **L'CHAYIM** online at
www.JewishFederationLCC.org.

A new year, a new opportunity to make a difference

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

■ Debbie Sanford



Before I begin asking once again for your support, I want to say thank you. Yes, I ask multiple times per year for your support. Yes, it is truly needed. The truth is that I do it because I care deeply about this community. I take my role very seriously, and I am incredibly passionate about ensuring that the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties continues to grow, thrive and be there when our community needs us most. I ask because I believe in what we do, and I hope you will continue to stand with us as we move our Federation forward.

As we approach the High Holidays, we are reminded of the importance of reflection, gratitude and the Jewish value of *tzedakah* — the responsibility we share to care for one another. This is also the time of year when our Annual Campaign begins to wind down, and we ask you to consider making your meaningful gift to the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties, today.

Your Annual Campaign gift is more than a donation — it is an investment in the future of our Jewish community and in the lives of those who need us most. The letter outlining this year's campaign will arrive in your mailbox in just a couple of weeks, and we hope you will join your neighbors, friends and community partners in supporting the important work we do every day.

Through your generosity, the Federation strengthens and enriches Jewish life locally, in Israel and around the world. We connect people, support programs, provide critical services and ensure that

our community remains vibrant, welcoming and secure. Your gift helps make possible.

Supporting those in need

Through Jewish Family Services, we provide vital assistance to individuals and families throughout Lee and Charlotte Counties, including our Food Pantry, emergency financial assistance, referrals, senior programs and outreach services. These programs are available to anyone in need, regardless of faith, because caring for our neighbors is at the heart of who we are.

Strengthening Jewish identity and connection

Your support helps bring our community together through educational programs, cultural events, holiday celebrations, the Jewish Film Festival, PJ Library, senior programs, community gatherings and opportunities for all generations to engage in Jewish life.

Protecting our community

In today's world, security remains a critical priority. The Federation works to help strengthen the safety and security of our Jewish institutions and community through education, partnerships and resources that allow us to continue gathering, learning and celebrating together.

Building for future generations

From children and families to seniors and Holocaust survivors, your gift ensures that Jewish values, traditions and connections continue for generations to come.

Every gift matters. Whether large or small, your contribution joins with others to create a collective impact that no individual could accomplish alone. Together, we feed, comfort, educate, protect and inspire.

As we enter the year 5787, we are grateful for the generosity, dedication and commitment of our community. Thank you for standing with the Jewish Federation and helping us continue to make a difference each and every day.

On behalf of the Federation, we wish you and your loved ones a *Shanah Tovah* — a happy, healthy and meaningful New Year filled with peace, good health and happiness. 🕊️



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



YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN!

TRIBUTES

Honors & Memorials



With a tribute gift you can mark a milestone, celebrate a special occasion, extend your sympathy or send wishes for a speedy recovery. It is a meaningful way to acknowledge friends or family and strengthen our Jewish community by contributing to the Annual Campaign.

A personalized tribute card will be sent to the honoree or bereaved on your behalf, reflecting a personal message if you wish.

In Memory of Prosper Anselm

Sharion Boyd

In Hopes for Ross Kirby

Of a speedy & complete recovery for our son.

In Memory of Holly Herron

Our beloved sister. 6/20/1951 - 5/18/2009

Lynn & Lory Kirby

jewishfederationlcc.org/tribute-memorials

HOW

THE JEWISH FEDERATION SERVES

Local Jewish Education and Culture

- Community-wide Jewish Education and Cultural Programs for all ages.
- L'CHAYIM published monthly to keep the Jewish community informed about local, national and international Jewish issues.
- CRC-Community Relations Council to address issues of anti-Semitism and Interfaith Relations.
- Israel Advocacy and Initiatives to strengthen local Jewish community ties with Israel. Holocaust education for middle and high school students in the community and a college campus Jewish life experience committee.
- Volunteer opportunities for all ages.

Overseas

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

Jewish Community Foundation

- An endowment that ensures future social and educational programming and support for our community.
- Needs-based college scholarships and study scholarships in Israel.
- Jewish camp scholarships.



Jewish Federation
of Lee & Charlotte Counties

Jewish Family
Services

Local Seniors Services

- Lunch Bunch, a monthly gathering with a free lunch for older adults to meet and schmooze.
- Holiday baskets and teen visits to seniors and senior facilities for Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah and Passover.
- Holocaust survivor outreach.

Local Social Services

- Non-sectarian, individual & family outreach, information & referral services.
- South Fort Myers United Way House.

Local Emergency Services

- Food Pantry and gift cards.
- Emergency financial assistance grants to families and individuals in crisis.
- Local disaster outreach and assistance.

Education, Arts & Culture Programs

Israeli Folk Dancing
Jewish Social Club
Mah Jongg
Holiday Senior Visits
PJ Library
Federation Hits the Road-Day Trips

Holocaust Remembrance
Jewish Film Festival
Community Breakfast
Major Gifts-Pacesetters
Jewish Heritage Day

Lion of Judah
Women's Day
TRIBE
Annual Meeting
Men's Division
P2G Partnership Together

What do you think?

L'CHAYIM wants to know!

Send your letters and comments to Sharon Hood, L'CHAYIM Editor, at sharon@marketcrank.com.

Letters Policy

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

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As you come together to reflect, renew, and share traditional meals, Publix wishes you a sweet new year and a meaningful fast. Set your High Holiday tables with our kosher product selection and welcome a year of sweetness and prosperity.

Learn more at publix.com/highholidays.





Be a Catalyst for Giving

By Jill Hagler, Director of Philanthropy, TOP Jewish Foundation

Every act of generosity has the power to spark something greater. This fall, TOP Jewish Foundation is helping donors turn their generosity into even greater impact. Through its new Catalyst for Giving program, donors who establish a qualifying donor-advised fund of \$10,000 or more between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2026, will receive a \$1,000 incentive bonus that must be granted to Jewish nonprofit organizations. "It's a simple way to strengthen Jewish life while beginning a lasting tradition of charitable giving," remarked Ellen Lipman, TOP's Executive Director.

What is a DAF?

A donor-advised fund (DAF) is a tax-smart charitable investment account that makes giving simple. Donors may contribute cash or appreciated assets, such as stock and recommend grants over time to qualified public charities. TOP manages the investments, recordkeeping and administration, while providing a secure online portal to access your fund and recommend grants with ease.

A DAF also makes it easier to involve family members, honor loved ones, support meaningful causes and pass on Jewish values. Grants of \$100 or more may be recommended to qualified



Jill Hagler

Jewish or secular charities, while invested assets have the potential to grow tax-free for future charitable use.

Why choose TOP?

TOP Jewish Foundation serves as the Jewish Community Foundation for the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties and Jewish communities throughout West and Central Florida. For more than 45 years, TOP has helped individuals and families turn their generosity into lasting community impact. As a trusted philanthropic partner, TOP manages more than \$130 million in charitable assets on behalf of donors and organizations across the region.

Donors choose TOP for personalized philanthropic guidance, concierge-level service and investment options professionally managed by Goldman Sachs. TOP is also proud to offer a pro-Israel and anti-terror investment strategy, reflecting its Jewish values and commitment to helping secure the future of our community.

This year-end, make your giving go further. Open a donor-advised fund, support the causes you care about and help strengthen Jewish life throughout our community. Become a Catalyst for Giving.

To learn more, contact TOP Jewish Foundation at 813-961-9090

or visit topjewishfoundation.org/catalyst-for-giving-program.

Disclaimer: TOP Jewish Foundation does not provide tax, financial or

legal advice. Please consult with your professional advisor before taking any of these steps.

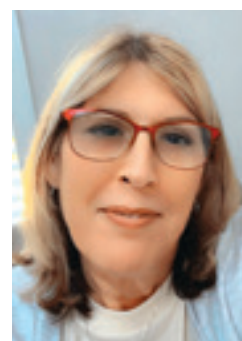
Meeting a growing need

By Monica Wildonger, JFS Case Manager & Food Pantry Coordinator

The summer was an extraordinary and challenging time for the JFS Food Pantry. We experienced some of the highest levels of need in recent memory. On several days, more than 80 families came through our doors, representing more than 350 individuals seeking assistance.

The increased demand stretched our resources to the limit. Even with the generous food deliveries from our partners at Harry Chapin Food Bank and Midwest Food Bank, there were days when our shelves were nearly empty by the end of distribution. These numbers serve as a powerful reminder that food insecurity continues to impact many members of our community.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of these organizations, as well as the generous donations from individuals, businesses and community groups. Every donation — food, funds and/or time



Monica Wildonger

— helps ensure that families facing hardship have access to nutritious meals and essential groceries. The compassion and generosity of our community make it possible for us to continue serving those in need.

Thank you to our volunteers, donors, community partners and everyone who supports the mission of JFS.

Together, we are providing food and assistance as well as hope, dignity and a sense of belonging to our neighbors in need.

A new group

We are excited to have launched the new Single Mingle group. This program was created to provide older Jewish singles with opportunities to connect, build friendships and participate in engaging social activities.

We look forward to welcoming new members and fostering meaningful connections within our community.

Be a Catalyst for Giving.



Donor-Advised Fund Incentive Program

WHY DONORS CHOOSE TOP JEWISH FOUNDATION



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*Program is 9/1/26-12/31/26 or until matching funds are depleted.
See website for complete details.

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**TOP Jewish Foundation is the
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Full Tables for Lunch Bunch at Temple Beth Shalom

By Elizabeth Elba, Life Enrichment Coordinator

Our July Lunch Bunch brought another full house as friends from across Lee and Charlotte Counties gathered at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral for our monthly installment of free lunch paired with programming. It was an afternoon of good food, entertainment and conversation.

Lunch was catered by Jason's Deli, and offered guests a choice of vege-



Elizabeth Elba

Once lunch wrapped up, the room shifted from eating to laughter. Cantor Barry Butnesky got everyone involved with a lighthearted Jewish musician trivia game that had everyone working together and sharing laughter. He was then joined by his friend Rafael, whose incredible accordion playing provided the perfect accompaniment to Cantor Barry's beautiful singing. It was a very special experience to hear their duet.



tarian, egg salad or tuna salad sandwich boxes, each complete with chips, a pickle and a cookie. Fresh fruit platters, salsa, guacamole and plenty of chips rounded out the meal. Although we intentionally ordered more lunches than our registration count, attendance exceeded even our extra supply! We're always happy to welcome everyone, but this month's turnout was a great reminder of how helpful it is to register in advance. Knowing how many people to expect allows us to plan accordingly and make sure there's plenty for everyone.



Of course, these gatherings thrive off the help of our dedicated volunteers.

A special thank you to Helene Glocer for photographing the event and helping everything run seamlessly, and to everyone who generously gave their time behind-the-scenes.

Lunch Bunch took a break in August, but it's back at Temple Beth El on Sept. 29. As always, Lunch Bunch is completely free. To reserve your spot, please register at jewishfederationlcc.org/calendar. If you need assistance registering, contact me at 239-481-4449 ext. 4 or elizabeth@jfedlcc.org.

We hope to see you in September! 🌟



GOOD BOOKS.
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STRONGER COMMUNITY.

Join us for meaningful conversations, new perspectives, and a warm community of readers. All are welcome!



JOIN US FOR OUR
FIRST MEETING!



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH



12:30 – 2:30 PM



JEWISH FEDERATION
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OUR FIRST READ:

Daughters of the Sun & Moon
by Lisa See

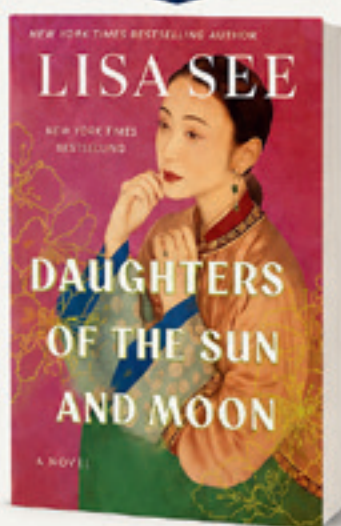
Set in 19th-century China, this sweeping novel follows the lives of two remarkable women—one born into privilege, the other into poverty—whose fates become intertwined in a story of sisterhood, resilience, and the power of choice.

Come for the book. Stay for the conversation. Leave inspired.



Jewish Federation
of Lee & Charlotte Counties

OCTOBER TO MAY
MEETING THE 3RD
THURSDAY OF
EACH MONTH



COMING
NEXT
MONTH



NOVEMBER'S BOOK:

As a Jew by Sarah Hurwitz



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH



12:30 – 2:30 PM

BOOKS OPEN MINDS.
CONVERSATIONS OPEN HEARTS.
COMMUNITY KEEPS US CONNECTED.

Youth & Family Engagement update

By Brittany Salem, Youth and Family Engagement Coordinator

As summer winds down, our community is already looking ahead to an exciting season filled with connection, celebration and meaningful experiences!

We had an incredible time celebrating “Rosh Hashanah at the Farm” with our PJ Library families. It was wonderful to welcome so many new and familiar faces for a morning filled with farm fun, animals, honey and apples, crafts, and the joy of celebrating the Jewish New Year together. Seeing families connect, laugh and create new traditions is exactly what PJ Library is all about, and we’re grateful to everyone



Brittany Salem

who joined us to make the event such a success.

Israeli Teen Delegation

Next up, we are thrilled to welcome our Israeli Teen Delegation to our community Sept. 27 through Oct. 1. Throughout their visit, our teens will experience South-west Florida while building lasting friendships with local families. Their itinerary includes community gatherings, cultural experiences, outdoor adventures, volunteer opportunities, and plenty of time to connect with one another. We look forward to sharing our community with these incredible teens and strengthening

the special bond between our Partnership2Gether communities.

Lunch Bunch

The community is also invited to join us for our “Lunch Bunch – Sukkot Catered Luncheon” at Temple Beth El on Tuesday, Sept. 29, noon. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet members of the Israeli Teen Delegation, celebrate Sukkot together, and enjoy a delicious catered lunch while building meaningful connections.

“Smoothies in the Sukkah”

PJ Library families won’t want to miss our next event, “Smoothies in the Sukkah,” at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral on Sunday, Oct. 4, from 2 to 3:30

p.m.. Families will enjoy smoothies, festive Sukkot-themed activities, crafts and time together in the sukkah. As always, everyone is welcome, whether you’re new to PJ Library or have been attending our events for years.

Stay tuned

There’s even more to look forward to this fall! Stay tuned for upcoming PJ Library events, including a Hanukkah Story Time and our annual Community Hanukkah Candle Lighting. We can’t wait to continue creating meaningful Jewish experiences for families throughout Lee and Charlotte Counties.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events! 🌟

Building community beyond the event

By Amy Hallock, Community Events Manager

When we think about an event, it’s easy to picture the obvious things: a beautiful venue, good food, entertainment, or a fun afternoon with friends. While those elements certainly matter, what happens beyond the schedule is often the most meaningful part.

Every event hosted by the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties is an opportunity to strengthen the fabric of our community. It’s where neighbors become friends, newcomers find a welcoming place, generations connect through shared experiences, and conversations spark ideas that continue long after the event ends. These moments remind us that community isn’t something we simply belong to, it is something we build together.

Behind every successful program is a team of dedicated volunteers, generous donors, community partners and local businesses that believe in the importance



Amy Hallock

of creating spaces where people can gather, learn, celebrate and connect. Their support allows us to offer meaningful experiences that enrich Jewish life here in Southwest Florida.

Designer Bag Bingo

That spirit of partnership is especially important as we prepare for one of our most anticipated events of the season, Designer Bag Bingo, happening Sunday, Oct. 25. This exciting afternoon promises designer handbags, friendly competition, great prizes and plenty of laughter. More importantly, it offers another opportunity for our community to come together in support of the Federation’s mission. With enthusiasm already building, we’re expecting this event to sell out, making it one you won’t want to miss.

Our community shows up

Events like Designer Bag Bingo are

made possible because our community believes in showing up. Whether you attend, volunteer, donate or sponsor, your involvement helps create experiences that bring people together and strengthen the connections that make our community so special. Every ticket purchased, every sponsorship secured, and every helping hand contributes to something much bigger than a single afternoon.

Thank you for being part of this incredible community. Whether you’re joining us at an event, introducing a friend to the Federation, supporting our programs or volunteering your time, you are helping create a place where people feel connected, welcomed and inspired.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Designer Bag Bingo on Oct. 25 and throughout another wonderful season of building community together. 🌟

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Saturday, September 12

10:00am Morning Service

Junior Congregation

Tot Rosh Hashanah

12:30pm Tashlich at Temple Beth El

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Sunday, September 13

10:00am 2nd Day Morning Service

YOM KIPPUR

Sunday, September 20

7:30pm Kol Nidre

Monday, September 21

10:00am Morning Service

Junior Congregation

3:00pm Exploring the Book of Jonah
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Nar-Anon support meetings

By Joann Goldman

Nar-Anon Family Groups is a 12-Step fellowship that offers a recovery program for those affected by someone's addiction. The group will meet in the Community Room at Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties.

Addiction is a family disease; it affects the relationships of those close

to the addict — parents, spouses, siblings, children, longtime friends and employers. In the group meetings, these family members and friends share their experiences, strengths and hopes to help each other and themselves.

If someone's addiction is affecting you, first you must help yourself. Come to a meeting and hear from others

who are going through similar problems and talk about how they cope and find recovery.

Nar-Anon is based on a set of spiritual principles and has no affiliation with any particular religion. There are no dues or fees. The only requirement for membership is a problem of addiction in a relative or friend.

This group has been a part of the Lee County community for more than 18 years. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. every Thursday at Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties (9701 Commerce Center Court, Fort Myers).

For more information, please contact me at jogo118@gmail.com or 239-470-4827.

A Jewish 12-Step recovery group

Every Saturday at 11 a.m. via Zoom

Courtesy of Temple Beth El

If you are Jewish in search of recovery support, a standard AA class may not suffice when the higher power references are not Jewish.

Folks are invited to experience the 12-Steps from a Jewish perspective on Saturdays at 11 a.m. via Zoom. This group includes those recovering from alcohol, drugs, and other addictions

such as food, gambling, sex, shopping, etc.

The guidebook is "Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery" by Rabbi Kerry Olitzky and Stuart Copans, M.D., second edition.

All who might benefit from this group are welcome. Zoom details are available by calling the Temple Beth El office at 239-433-0018.

Southwest Florida educators visit concentration camp sites in Poland

By Erin Blankenship, Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center President & CEO

Southwest Florida educators recently returned from a 10-day educational study tour to Poland. Those in attendance — Gulf Middle School's Principal Wes Moreland; Bonita Springs Charter School's 8th Grade Team Lead and English Language Arts Teacher Dr. Haroldo Fontaine; and Palmetto Ridge High School's 10th Grade English Language Arts Teacher Justin Feingold — were selected by the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center to participate in the program, "A Journey Through Poland: History, Evidence and Memory."

Museum President and CEO Erin Blankenship, who accompanied the edu-



■ Erin Blankenship

The work these and other Southwest Florida educators are doing to inform the next generation about the importance of standing up to hate is critically important to our communities."

Also on the trip were other educators, students, scholars and Museum professionals from across the U.S.

The itinerary included visits to major historical and memorial Holocaust sites, including Warsaw and Łódź, Auschwitz I, Auschwitz-Birkenau, and Belzec.

The program not only explored the Holocaust as a historical event but also provided the group a broader view of life in Poland before, during and after the Holocaust. Among the areas visited were cities and towns where Jewish people had lived for hundreds of years.

A special moment

For Mr. Feingold, a special moment during the trip was a stop in Bilgoraj, where his ancestors lived. While his great-grandfather was able to come to the U.S., the other family members who remained in Bilgoraj during World War II were likely deported to Belzec and murdered. He noted, "Not only did I get to walk the same streets as two of my great-grandfathers, but I got to see the



Wes Moreland at Birkenau

final resting places for their aunts, uncles, cousins and siblings. I now get to share my stories (and pictures) with my students, which means the world to me."

The impact of the trip

Principal Moreland

stated, "You can look at our trip to Poland in terms of time, costs and dollar signs, but the experiences we had were priceless."

Mr. Feingold said, "After seeing Poland in person, there are way too many similarities echoed in society today. We must remember the past (especially the Holocaust) in order to try and protect all of humanity from having to endure something so horrific again."

The teachers aren't the only ones to benefit from this trip. They are bringing back and sharing real-world, on the ground, experiences of seeing Holocaust history to their students at Gulf Middle School, Bonita Springs Charter School, and Palmetto Ridge High School. They will also add new personal stories of the Holocaust to those preserved by the Museum and shared in its exhibitions and Holocaust education programs for students and the public.



Dr. Fontaine viewing an exhibit in the building where victims' belongings were disinfected in Auschwitz Birkenau

cators on the trip, noted, "We have provided Holocaust education programs to each of these schools for many years. In this time of rising antisemitism, education is the strongest tool against hate.



Wes Moreland outside Birkenau Camp Commandant Hoss' family home



Justin Feingold at Bilgoraj city limits sign, where his family members lived before and during the Holocaust

Rosh Hashanah in New Guinea, 1943

By Arlene Stolnitz

I am sure this is something you have never seen before — a most unusual “Shana Tova!”

It represents a time during the Second World War (WWII) when the conflict on both fronts was raging on with no end in sight. The U.S. had been fighting for several years in both the European and the Pacific Theaters. It seemed the war was endless for everyone, including me, a young 7-year-old, whose dad never came home until I was nearly



■ Arlene Stolnitz

Reaching their destination, my dad was assigned as a dentist to the Fifth Station Hospital in Sidney. He was later reassigned to Port Moresby, New Guinea, which became a real adventure for him.

According to artificial intelligence, “Port Moresby was the vital strategic linchpin for Allies in the south Pacific. Coveted by Japan to isolate Australia, the city endured relentless bombings starting February 1942. It served as the Allied

He had sent it to us — my mother, brother and me — back in the states by what we call “snail mail” today. Who knows how long it took to get to us!

Even more interesting is trying to imagine what life was like, not only for my dad, but for those soldiers, knowing that despite the hardship of separation from family and pure survival in a hostile environment, it was important for them to remember that being Jewish mattered.

Just who was S. Noodelman who drew this simply sketched message of greeting for the Jewish New Year? My dad probably knew this man. I like to think S. Noodelman was part of my father’s unit, had hand drawn this New Year’s message for the few Jewish soldiers in their unit. The setting of a remote desert island with signs of human existence (clothes hanging and lawn chairs), lit with the rays of

Torah shining down, shows hope despite thoughts of despair and desperation.

Dad never spoke of it. I never remember seeing it until many years later when I found it in the trunk in the attic. This New Year’s Greeting touches me to this day.

It is in the World War II scrapbook I have made in my father’s honor; not only for my dad, but also my children and grandchildren as a tribute for all who have served in every war. They have endured difficult times with dignity and grace.

L’Shana Tova!

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. Stolnitz, a native of Rochester, New York, is a retired educator and lives in Venice, Florida.



11-years-old! Looking back, I had no idea what that really meant.

My dad, Capt. David Eichen, left for service during the early stages of the war. He travelled to Australia by ship on the Queen Mary, which became a troop ship during those war years. Nicknamed the “Gray Ghost,” the ship was painted gray for camouflage purposes. Since the ship could not get through the Panama Canal, it took more than a month to reach Australia, traveling around the tip of South America.

staging area and anchor to repel the Japanese advance...”

Of course, we knew nothing of this since all letters and v-mail (not e-mail) were censored.

I have much memorabilia from my father’s time in New Guinea, which I have preserved in a scrapbook. Much of it was found in a trunk containing his belongings from when he served in the war. The New Year’s greeting accompanying this article was found in that trunk.

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The “Get Out of Shul Free” card

Aging Jewishly — What our traditions teach us about growing old.

By Rabbi Barbara Aiello

Almost all of us have played Monopoly so we know how lucky it is to pick the “Get Out of Jail Free” card. You stash it away knowing that it’s sure to come in handy sometime soon. The “Get Out of Shul Free” card works the same way. Just like its Monopoly cousin, the “Get Out of Shul Free” card is wallet-size, laminated and easy to find.

This is how it works: Say you have theater tickets and the first play of the new season falls on a Friday night. Maybe your grandkids or an old school friend have come to visit. Maybe there’s basketball practice or a late meeting at work. No problem. Simply drop by your synagogue, take out your “Get Out of Shul Free” card and present it to your rabbi. Just like they do at Starbucks when they punch your card so you can earn a free coffee, “Your Get Out of Shul Free” card gets you off the hook for Shabbat!

OK, I confess. The “Get Out of Shul Free” card isn’t real. I made it up. What I didn’t fabricate is the strange equation that rabbis struggle with each week. A curious equivalency that places Shabbat on one side of the scale, and every other social and/or family activity on the other side and somehow the balance comes out even.

Don’t get me wrong. I’m not saying that there aren’t times when it’s important to make other plans, to fulfill other obligations, to do something other than go to shul on a Friday night. There are times when I’d like to do something else, too. What I’m suggesting is maybe it’s time for us to rethink our perception about the concept of Shabbat. Maybe we need to give some thought to the idea that just like flossing our teeth, making Shabbat takes effort, but it also brings benefits for which there is no substitute.

In her book, “The Fourth Commandment: Remember the Sabbath Day,” prolific author Francine Klagsbrun (now 95



■ Rabbi Barbara Aiello

years old) grapples with these same issues. She found that the Kabbalists focused on the mystical nature of Shabbat and that the hymn, “L’cha Dodi,” which welcomes the Sabbath bride on Friday evenings, is as sacred and joyful as a wedding. When asked about her motivation Klagsbrun says, “I felt it was time to reclaim Shabbat and focus on it once again.” She notes that life is so much easier today than it once was, but now that we are hooked into the technology with access to everything in the palm of our hand, unplugging becomes so difficult that we actually experience emotional pain. Now, more than ever, we need a day to stop and rest, to think about what’s important. Simply put, there is nothing like a Friday night dinner and nothing like a Kabbalat Shabbat Friday night service to pull the family together.

Francine Klagsbrun is a realist and so am I. Most rabbis understand the author when she says that it is unlikely that

all Jews everywhere will consistently embrace shul attendance every Shabbat. We hope Jews will develop a new appreciation for the Jewish holiday that is the most important one our calendar, and the one holiday that comes every week of the year.

That’s what the “Get Out of Shul Free” card is really all about. A rabbi

friend actually made a card complete with dots for your punches and offered it to his congregants. No really! He encouraged them to enjoy their guests, the theater, the concert, whatever, but the “Get Out of Shul Free” card only had five punches — only five weeks available to opt out of Shabbat. The remaining 47 weeks of the year are yours to enjoy. They are yours to cherish. They are yours for growth.

No matter what else is happening in our lives, the good times are sweeter and the tough times more bearable when we take time for that refreshing, soul-satisfying pause. It is yours for the taking



every week of the year. Challah and wine, blessings and songs — the Shabbat basics offer rest, peace and serenity. Shabbat is your very own Jewish community chest.

Certainly other things get in the way, but the new year is upon us. The calendar says, “5787,” and making Shabbat

offers us endless spiritual possibilities. If we make room for it and give it its own special place, nothing else holds a candle to Shabbat.

Rabbi Barbara Aiello served the Aviva Campus for Senior Life in Sarasota, Florida as resident rabbi for 10 years. Her most

popular columns are now published in her book, “Aging Jewishly,” available on Amazon books. Rabbi Barbara now lives and works in Italy where she is Italy’s first woman rabbi and spiritual leader of Italy’s first Reconstructionist synagogue. Contact her at Rabbi@RabbiBarbara.com. 🌐

Now, more than ever, we need a day to stop and rest, to think about what’s important.

Candle lighting times:

September 4: 7:25 p.m.

September 11: 7:17 p.m.

September 18: 7:10 p.m.

September 25: 7:02 p.m.



L'Shana Tovah!



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

Secret service

By Brian Simon

There's a story we tell at our Seder every year when we get to the part about the five rabbis having Passover at B'nai Barak. For the first 30 years of my life, I hardly gave this part of the Haggadah any thought, other than it's really hard to pronounce the names of Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah and Rabbi Yehoshua.

Then, Mindi and I took a mission trip to Israel with Federation. We went to an archaeological site of cave dwellings, and the tour guide alluded to this seemingly nondescript passage: "And they told of the Exodus from Egypt all that night until their students came in and said, 'Our teachers, it is time to say the morning *Shema*.'"

The question, the guide asked, was why didn't the rabbis know it was morning? Couldn't they see the sun was up? He suggested perhaps the long discussion was being held underground in a cave. It may have been dangerous to openly practice Jewish rituals under Roman rule.

It seems like we're in a time like that right now. Which is why I'm suggesting we move back underground. Not literally underground, like in caves — I mean,



■ Brian Simon

we can't even build basements here in Florida. I'm suggesting we hold our services in secret.

Now, I know what you're going to say: "We can't let the thugs win. We should be able to practice however we want." I agree. Hear me out, though. I'm not talking about going into hiding. I'm talking about exclusivity.

Why is it that every new bar wants to pretend to be a speakeasy? Because speakeasies are cool! They're a throwback to a time when it was illegal to drink alcohol. They had to be hidden, but that only made them more attractive. You had to know someone. You had to use a password or a special knock on the door to get in. How cool is that?

Now, I know what you're going to say: "I have enough trouble remembering all the passwords just to use my computer!" I get that. Maybe instead of a password, you'll have to bring a copy of *L'Chayim* or a jar of gefilte fish. We'll figure that part out

later. The point is that secret rooms are interesting!

This idea addresses all the trends affecting synagogues: declining attendance; difficulty attracting younger members; and increased security costs.

Declining attendance: We want a small crowd (at first) so as not to attract attention.



Difficulty attracting younger members: You want to attract young members, make attendance exclusive. "Oh, there's a synagogue? We'll never get in. It must be amazing!"

Increased security costs: Special doors, camera systems, armed guards, these are hallmarks of a speakeasy! We've already got this stuff! Heck, with this kind of set-up, we might as well run a casino as a side hustle.

Now, we'll need a front, a seemingly legitimate business that would explain why all the cars are there on a Friday night or Saturday morning (unless you're shomer shabbos). I propose we make it a restaurant. We'll want a place for the kiddush lunch anyway. We can decide later whether to have the restaurant offer lousy service so no one uninvited wants to come, or maybe we make it a decent place to raise a few shekels to help cover the cost. We'll play loud piano music in the front to cover up the singing and praying in the back.

What about new people who come to town looking for a shul while they're here on vacation? They'll hear about it through word of mouth, or maybe they'll see our Facebook page for Elazar ben Azariah and figure it out.

I'm telling you, the speakeasy synagogue is an idea whose time has come. Maybe a thousand years from now, people will tell the story about the wise men and women who stayed up all night kibitzing over bagels until their students came to them and said, "Our teachers, it is morning. And there is now a three-month wait to get into Shabbat." 🕒

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Turning values into action

By Shelley Einhorn, President Collier/Lee Chapter of Hadassah

As the notes of the shofar pierce the air and the quiet of reflection settles over us, we gather for the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur — sacred moments that stir our hearts and awaken our souls. These days call us to pause, to look deeply within and to embrace the profound responsibility we carry to grow, to renew and to shape a better future for ourselves and others.

Those values are deeply connected to the mission of Hadassah. For more than a century, Hadassah has transformed Jewish values into action — healing the sick, advancing medical research, supporting Israel, advocating for women and strengthening Jewish life.



Shelley Einhorn

The work of Hadassah reflects the timeless principles of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, and *pikuach nefesh*, saving lives. Each member, volunteer and supporter helps bring hope, healing and compassion to people in need.

As we enter this New Year and seek to become our best selves, let us take the next step together. Join Hadassah, volunteer your time, lend your voice or make a meaningful contribution to support this vital work. Your involvement can help bring healing, hope and strength to communities around the world.

May we be inspired by Hadassah's example and continue working to create a healthier, stronger and more caring world.
Shanah Tovah! 🕊

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Hope to see you!

Tuesday, Sept. 29
10:30-11:30a.m. via Zoom

What's on the ballot? League of Women Voters of Lee and Collier Counties.

Wednesday, Sept. 30
10-11:30a.m. via Zoom

What's on the ballot? Sandy Parker of Collier County.

Monday, Nov. 16

Legacy and Laughter – Meeting, program and luncheon

Sunday, Dec. 13

Chapter recognition of 2026 donors — everyone is invited!

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2027

Installation of Board



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Congratulations to the Holocaust Museum on 25 years

And more details about GenShoah's 2026-27 programs

By Ida Margolis and Shelley Lieb

This year, 2026, marks the 25th anniversary of the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center (HMCEC) in Naples. This is a milestone for the Southwest Florida institution that has grown from a classroom project into a remarkable museum which annually hosts thousands of students and visitors, as well as numerous special exhibitions and interesting programs each year.

The beginning of the Museum is a remarkable story. During the 1997-98 school year, Golden Gate Middle School



Ida Margolis and Shelley Lieb

Education remains the Museum's key function, as its mission is to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to inspire action

Holocaust education programs impacted over 93,000 students in 10 Southwest Florida counties. With the vision of Museum President and CEO Erin Blankenship and Education Director Katie Bütte, these programs will continue to grow. Each year, Museum Curator Cody Rademacher creates exhibitions that shed light on Holocaust history and personal experiences. The Museum's permanent collection now contains over 5,000 unique artifacts.

With much work and community support, the Museum moved into a permanent, larger location in 2019. It has expanded to include new galleries, interactive exhibits and additional educational spaces. These improvements enable the Museum to serve additional students and guests, while carefully preserving the moving personal sto-



Exhibit in current Holocaust Museum

teachers David Bell and Michelle Lee worked with students to design an exhibit at school to share what they had learned about the Holocaust. It was titled "Out of the Ashes." The Golden Gate students, moved by the stories of local survivors like Abe Price, and of liberators and veterans, inspired the creation of the HMCEC, which may be the only complete museum inspired by a public school class project.



Exhibit in earlier Holocaust Museum

against hatred and to promote mutual respect. During the 2025-26 school year, the Museum's age-appropriate

ries of local survivors. As time passes and fewer survivors remain, the work of the Museum is more important than ever, and we are grateful for all that it continues to do.

GenShoah is proud to be an affinity group of the Museum. Our mission is: promoting Holocaust education and human rights, preserving the history and memories of the Holocaust, connecting descendants of Holocaust survivors with one another, and supporting the HMCEC.

Second generation members are encouraged to write their parents' stories, which are shared on the Museum's website: hmcec.org/resources. We welcome anyone interested in our mission to join us. For more information, and to receive our free e-newsletter with upcoming program news, please contact genshoahswfl@hmcec.org.

GenShoah SWFL 2026-27 programs

We are excited to share with you the following upcoming programs for the 2026-27 season.

"Movies that Matter" film series and expert panel discussions

Located at the Holocaust Museum (HMCEC)



- Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2 p.m. – "Possible Selves: Overcoming the Odds in Foster Care"
- Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2 p.m. – "Black and Jewish America: An Interwoven History"

• Send your RSVP soon to hmcec.org.

Annual Kristallnacht Commemoration

Located at St. William Church, Naples

- Sunday, Nov. 8, 2:30 p.m.
- Send your RSVP to jewishnaples.org.

Veterans' Day program: "The Ritchie Boys by Jeff Kraus (2G)"

Located at the Holocaust Museum (HMCEC)

- Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2 p.m.
- Send your RSVP to hmcec.org soon.

GenShoah Readers & Learners author presentation by Ruth Wade on "The Ones Who Remember"

Located at the Holocaust Museum (HMCEC)

- Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2 p.m.
- Send your RSVP to hmcec.org soon.

"The Real Story of the Comedian Harmonists" by speaker Jeff Margolis

Located at the Holocaust Museum (HMCEC)

- Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2027, 2 p.m.
- Send your RSVP to hmcec.org soon.

Open House for all GenShoah members, survivors and their guests

Located at the Holocaust Museum (HMCEC)

- Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2027, 10 a.m.
- Send your RSVP to hmcec.org soon.

Special event to recognize GenShoah speaker Michael Daniels: "Nisei Soldiers, Civic Courage and the Legacy of Service"

Located at Beth Tikvah

- Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2027, 7 p.m.
- Send your RSVP to office@bethtikvah.us.

GenShoah Readers & Learners: "Inherited Trauma"

Located at the Holocaust Museum (HMCEC)

- Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2027, 2 p.m.
- Send your RSVP to hmcec.org.

2Gs Alan Zagier and Merry Korn present "Every One Has a Story"

Located at the Holocaust Museum (HMCEC)

- Wednesday, March 24, 2027, 2 p.m.
- Send your RSVP to hmcec.org.

Annual Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration

- Sunday, May 2, 2027 ☺



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CHAVURAT SHALOM OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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A Season of reflection and renewal

By Cheryl Fulmer, Ellen Feingold and Marcia Rudin

This year, we begin to celebrate Rosh Hashanah on Friday night, Sept. 11. The 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the Days of Awe, also called the Days of Repentance, when we are called upon to make amends to people we have wronged during the year.

A poem written by Myra Klahr

*Thankful
Every day
Our feet touch the ground
Every kiss
Every hug
Every moment we breathe*

*Our eyes see the
Sun rise
The joy of family
The blessings of friends*

*We live free
To taste the morning
Coffee
To phone a friend*

*To celebrate Shabbat
With our chavurah
To feel blessed
With the gift of
Today and the promise
Of Tomorrow*

*How grateful we are
O Eternal one
For your love*

If you have caused offense or harm, you must apologize multiple times to those you've hurt without offering any justification for your hurtful actions. You must try to change who you are, a process that takes time. What if you are the one who has been hurt? You must try to forgive and end the resentment and grudge because the anger at others can be personally destructive embittering your life.

The Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is called Shabbat Shuvah, the Shabbat of Return, a return to righteousness. Then, just five days after Yom Kippur, Sukkot begins the very next Shabbat on Friday night, Sept. 25, ending one week later. Sukkot is the time when we are called to dwell in makeshift tents (tabernacles) so that we remember the Exodus from Egypt. At the end of Sukkot comes Simchat Torah, and then, the following Shabbat (Oct. 9), we begin reading our Torah, the Five Books of Moses, all over again, beginning with Genesis.

Chavurat Shalom wishes everyone a very Happy New Year, a meaningful Yom Kippur, and a joyous Sukkot holiday.

Celebrating Myra Klahr

Continuing our profiling of Chavurat Shalom's many accomplished members, this month we celebrate Myra Klahr. A published poet, we enjoy the poems she reads frequently at our Shabbat services.

Myra was raised in Jackson Heights, Queens, New York. She attended Hunter College High School and Queens College, earning an MA in Education. She has four children: Marc, Ellen, Susan and Shari. She lived in Manhattan before moving to Sanibel in 2015. She now lives in Fort Myers.

She taught 2nd grade in Ardsley, New York for two years. She won the Dylan Thomas Poetry Prize in 1963 for her



Myra Klahr

poem, "The Waiting Room," which was published as a book. Myra was Founder and Executive Director of Poets in Public Service, identifying and training professional writers to conduct writing workshops in schools, hospitals, homeless shelters and detention centers.

As the winner of a national Arts in Education Program, she testified to Congress under auspices of the National Endowment for the Arts about how valuable it is for children to learn to read and write poetry. She taught poetry writing several summers in a writing workshop

at Rancho LaPuerta in Mexico. Myra is an accomplished painter and still composes poetry. Accompanying this article, is one of her wonderful poems.

Recurring programs

Our chavurah holds Friday night Shabbat services every week throughout the year at 7:30 p.m. Services are led by members, with English readings, original readings and poetry, Hebrew and English singing, and Torah reading with commentary by a thoughtful member.

On the first Tuesday of the month, we enjoy our informal "schmooze" session at 7:30 p.m. "Torah Talk," where we study the Parsha of the week together, is the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Jewish Current Events is the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The fourth Tuesday is set aside for the lecture and discussion which takes place at 7:30 p.m.

All Chavurat Shalom programs are held via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join us. We plan in-person gatherings in the Sanibel and Fort Myers area occasionally. For further information, email chavuratshalom@gmail.com or check out our website: chavuratshalomofswflorida.org.

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From remembrance to resolve

By Marina Berkovich, JHSSWF President

This September is a month of numerous Jewish Holy Days. Rosh Hashana 5787 coincides with an historic commemoration and Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida always marks this solemn occasion.

On Sept. 11, 2001, our peace was overtaken by a mixture of shock, grief and despair. Those of us who lived in close proximity to the sites of vicious attacks perpetrated on the U.S. soil will never fully recover, even if no family or friends perished. The loss of our domestic innocence was (and remains) palpable.

Many wondered, how could we — an impenetrable country far away from most of the world's hot-spots — find ourselves a target of such venomous hatred and so helpless in the days, weeks, months and years, when our enemies were planning the terror? Search and recovery were immediately accompanied by many unanswerable questions.

Blaming the Jews

Then, in a despicable twist, almost the next thing was to blame the Jews. Of the nearly 3,000 victims, 190 confirmed



Marina Berkovich

Jewish deaths were generally ignored in favor of conspiracies of Jewish/Israeli control of WTC, which proliferated, becoming widespread by the end of October, and gathered a huge worldwide following ever since.

"September 11 Conspiracies: 20 Years Later," a must-review report by Simon Wiesenthal Center/Ed Snider Social Action Institute, is probably the most comprehensive lists of claims fueled by the never diminishing newly renamed Jew-hatred, a.k.a. same old antisemitism.

How easy it must be to always blame the Jews. The world has always done it, and it does not look like the new generation is spared. Numerous trials and tragedies befell Jews everywhere over the last five years, and with each new one, a new spiral of antisemitism climaxes as we all think, it could not get any worse. Somehow, it always does. I will only reference one instance: Oct. 7.

As one voice

Boy George's new beautiful pro-Israel

song, "We'll Dance Again," is the newest source of Jew-hatred, because he sings, "I stand with the Jews. I don't feel brave. I just need to behave like a human." Boy George, the gay bastion of openness and transparency for generations, a former-Catholic and present-Buddhist, was idolized by the very people who are now punishing him for his honesty, loyalty and, frankly, bravery, as one is never safe from pretty much anything these days.

Sheltered in our cloistered Southwest Florida hub, we are pretty lucky and complacent in our innocence. In honor of both Rosh Hashana and 9/11, we must set aside all our Jewish differences and idiosyncrasies and do just

that — stand with the Jews and Israel, pray and sing together. As one voice.

We appreciate your continuing support of our mission throughout the year. Our programming will resume in October. *L'Shana Tovah* to all!

Sign up for our mailing list at jhsswf.org. Our telephone number is 833-347-7935 (833-JHS-SWFL). Kindly direct all correspondence, including contributions and renewals to: The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida, P.O. Box #10075, Naples, Florida 34101.

The Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida is a section 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Contributions are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Local Jewish History

JHSSWF is advancing full speed toward the new season of Local Jewish History and what better way to review it than during our annual Local Jewish History Film Festival. It will take place in October, November and December, spotlighting our local Jewish heroes and heroines.

Please reserve two dates for the Annual Celebration of Florida Jewish History Month: Jan. 4, 2027, and Jan. 29, 2027. More details coming soon!



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TEMPLE BETH EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Fort Myers

Allison Fego, Religious School Coordinator

As summer comes to an end, we are thrilled to welcome our students and families back for another exciting year at Temple Beth El Religious School! We have been hard at work preparing for a year filled with meaningful learning, hands-on experiences and opportunities to strengthen our Jewish community.

Israel Link
This year, we are especially excited to introduce Israel Link, a new curriculum for our 7th and 8th grade students. Israel Link encourages students to explore important topics within Judaism through engaging discussions and activities. Throughout the year, they will dive deeper into subjects such as Zionism, the prophets, the Land of Israel, and the people of Israel while strengthening their connection to Jewish history, identity and values.

Community service
Living our Jewish values extends beyond

the classroom, and we are looking forward to another incredible year of community service. Our students will have the opportunity to make a real difference by volunteering at the Gladiolus Food Pantry, creating Hanukkah cards for the blind, participating in the Lee County cleanup, and taking part in additional projects that help strengthen our local community. These experiences teach our students that even small acts of kindness can have a lasting impact.

Shalom Sprouts
We are also excited to relaunch our early childhood program with a fresh new name: Shalom Sprouts! Designed for our youngest learners and their families, this revitalized program will be led by an Israeli mom who brings her own unique experiences, culture and enthusiasm to each class. Through music, stories, crafts and play, Shalom Sprouts will introduce young children to the joy of Jewish life while creating meaningful connections among families in our community.

There is so much to look forward to this year, and we cannot wait to welcome both returning and new families through our doors. Together, we will learn, serve, celebrate and continue building a strong and vibrant Temple Beth El community.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon and wish all of our families a wonderful, healthy and meaningful school year! 🌟



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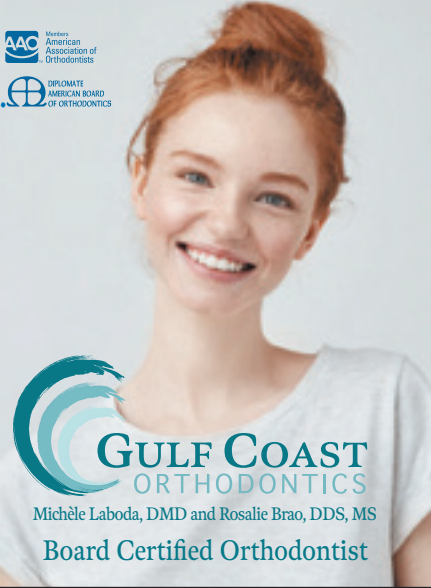


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TEMPLE JUDEA RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
Fort Myers
Tehila Cherubino, Director of Education

There is something special about the first few weeks of Religious School. The classrooms are filled with excitement as familiar faces reconnect after the summer; new students begin weaving their own threads into the tapestry of our Temple Judea family, and new friendships blossom. The energy is contagious, reminding us what a blessing it is to learn, grow and celebrate Jewish life together.

This year, we are especially delighted to welcome several new families to Temple Judea Religious School. Their commitment to giving their children a Jewish education enriches our entire school community. As our classes grow, so do the opportunities for students to build friendships, learn from one another and deepen their connection to Jewish life.

Religious school is about much more than preparing for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. It is where children discover the stories, traditions, values and Hebrew language that connect them to generations of Jewish life. They celebrate holidays together, ask meaningful questions, form lasting friendships and develop a lifelong sense of pride in being Jewish.

One of the greatest joys of a new school year is watching children who may have been strangers just weeks earlier become classmates and friends. When children feel welcomed, accepted and connected, they look forward to coming to Religious School each week.

Watching new students become part of our Temple Judea family reminds us that our congregation continues to grow and thrive. We are grateful for the trust our families place in us and are committed to partnering with them to create an environment where every child can learn, grow and feel they belong.

As we begin this new school year and look ahead to the High Holidays, may we all continue to strengthen our connections and build a Jewish future filled with warmth, learning and community.

If you have young children or grandchildren, we invite you to visit the Temple Judea website to learn more about Shabbat B'Kef and our engaging High Holidays children's programs. We would love to welcome you and your family.

On behalf of Temple Judea Religious School, I wish all of our readers a happy, healthy, sweet and meaningful New Year.

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Ought we not ought?

By Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer

We are in the month of Elul. It is the time of return. A time where we try to increase our awareness of our mistakes and work on rectifying them. Elul is a time of preparation. Preparing for the day on which the whole world is to be judged: Rosh Hashanah.

This is the time when we acknowledge that we have strayed from the path to our highest selves and wish to return. To return to the path requires that we search for it. That search has to start with an honest analysis of our own actions. This “soul searching” is reflected in the name of the month itself, for Elul means to “search” or to “seek out” in Aramaic.

During Elul, we search for not only for God, but also for our sense of self. Our sense of self, our core identity, is often quite fragile. All it takes is one moment



■ Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer

of invalidation from someone whom we respect or love to make it come apart.

There is a story about the great Sage, Rav Saadia Gaon, who lived some 1,100 ago. Once, his students came to see him at night unexpectedly. They found their rebbe rolling in the snow! Dumbfounded and trembling, they asked “Rebbe, can it be that you, Heaven forbid, are in need of such suffering and affliction as this?”

Rav Saadia replied, “I have done no sin that requires such stringent measures, but I learned something from someone with whom I lodged, and I am following his example.”

The students were puzzled and silent as Rav Saadia continued: “Recently I stayed at the house of someone in a town far from here. The owner did not recognize me, but he paid me every customary courtesy and honor. Somewhat later, the

word got around that I was in town and everyone came to greet me and give me honor. When my host realized who I was he also started to accord me great honor, to the utmost of his ability.

“A few days later, just as I was leaving, my host fell to the ground in front of me. He begged my forgiveness. I asked him why he needed forgiveness from me, since he had treated me with the greatest honor and respect.

“When you first arrived’ he said ‘I didn’t realize who you were.

Please forgive me!’ This man wept at my feet until I forgave him and lifted him up. I am no more than flesh and blood. How much more so should I humble and afflict myself before the Holy One of Blessing. With each passing day, I realize how totally inadequate has been my behavior in days gone by!”

... Elul means to “search” or to “seek out” in Aramaic.

But that is not to say that we should only look at what is and berate ourselves for our shortcomings. Rather we should look at what is and what ought to be.

Rabbi Harold Shulweis teaches: Think **ought**. Not what I am, but rather what I ought to be. Not what **is** a Jew, but what **ought** a Jew to be. Not what prayer is, but what prayer **ought** to be. Not what **is** a synagogue, but what ought a synagogue to be. Focus from **is** to **ought**, and the mindset is affected. **Is** faces us toward the present; **ought** turns us to the future. **Ought** and **is** are complementary. Without

an **is**, the genius of our past and present collective wisdom is forgotten. Without an **ought**, the great visions of tomorrow fade. **Is** is a being, **ought** is a becoming. **Ought** emancipates us from status quo thinking. **Ought** is the freedom of spirit.

Ought we not ought?

Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer serves Bat Yam Temple of the Islands. 🕍

The gift of Teshuva

By Rabbi Nicole Luna

As an idea, *teshuva*, is truly remarkable. It means repentance or returning to the path of righteousness, but it encapsulates so much more. Imagine a row of dominos, one goes down and knocks into the next, starting a cascade of dominos falling one after another. One action sets another consequence in motion. *Teshuva* is like a hand that reaches into the row and holds one domino up, stopping the cascade. *Teshuva* doesn’t erase the past — the previous dominos have fallen — but it returns us to being upright and changes what happens next.



■ Rabbi Nicole Luna

Teshuva insists that the past does not have to predict the future. We can stop the cascade and chart a new course. Ironically, on Yom Kippur we read about a prophet who doesn’t like this idea. God calls upon the prophet Jonah to go to Nineveh and warn the people about God’s impending doom based on their immoral acts.

When Jonah finally makes it to Nineveh (after a stint in the belly of a fish), the people repent, God renounces punishment, and Jonah pouts about the turn of events. But God insists, “I care about Nineveh.” *Teshuva* is a gift from a God who believes we are capable of true

and lasting change. God believes we can do better.

Teshuva means having faith in ourselves and in our ability to genuinely change our behavior, but where does this faith come from? The main idea of *teshuva* in Judaism is that it is built into the fabric of every human life. The Talmud describes it as existing before the world was even created. Each individual comes preprogrammed to do *teshuva*, to return to the path of righteous, to change what happens next.

Think about how often our phones, our computers and even our cars ask us to install an update. Those updates don’t replace the device; they improve how it functions. They fix vulnerabilities, remove glitches, and help it become what it was designed to be. We don’t need to be a new and different model! The act of *teshuva* is the spiritual version of a software update, improving our thoughts, actions and relationships.

What an encouraging and comforting idea, that the means of improvement is already built within you. Even more remarkably, we don’t have to *teshuva* completely on our own. In Shir Hashirim

Rabbah 5:3, it images God saying to Israel, “My children, present to me a single opening of repentance, small like the eye of a needle, and I will open for you entrances through which wagons and carriages can pass.”

So, as we enter this season of *teshuva*, remember that God is not waiting for you to become a different person. God is inviting you to become more fully the person you were created to be. The cascade of yesterday does not have to determine tomorrow. The update is already waiting to be installed, and you don’t have to

Teshuva is a gift from a God who believes we are capable of true and lasting change.

complete the process alone. All God asks is that first small opening: an apology you’ve been avoiding; a conversation you’ve been postponing; a habit you’re finally ready to change. Open that space, however small, and trust that God will meet you there, widening it into a path home.

May this be a High Holy Day season in which we find the courage to begin, the humility to return and the faith to believe that with God’s help, we can change what happens next.

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



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Finding my own way

By Rabbi Bruce Diamond

Growing up a short bicycle ride from my grandparents in Brooklyn, I became very close to their youngest son, just 10 years my senior. My brothers were five and seven years younger, so Uncle Herbie became the big brother I came to idolize and emulate.

I followed him through the same *yeshivah* (the same summer camp) and the same Bard College. So, of course, when he entered Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati to become a Reform rabbi, the die was cast for me. I had never stepped foot in a Reform “temple,” although at the rare moments my *yeshivah* teachers mentioned it, it was derisively as “*feh*, that place with an organ!”

But no matter — wherever Uncle Herbie went, I was sure to follow. For a while he filled some Reform pulpits,



■ Rabbi Bruce Diamond

but I guess his heart wasn't in it since he quickly left the rabbinate, went to medical school and became a psychiatrist. (My mother of blessed memory wryly remarked, “If he had become an obstetrician he would have gotten pregnant.”)

That is where I drew the line, since being a rabbi was just the right “fit” for me, offering me the freedom to grow into the rabbi I wanted to be rather than be trapped in a mold not of my own making.

As a favorite song, the Shaker hymn “Simple Gifts,” puts it:

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free

'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be.

Like those Shakers, I've had supporters, but a lot more resistance and

opposition. I made a terrible employee: unruly, disruptive, insubordinate and dismissive of institutional goals established by their leadership, mostly intended to keep their organizations afloat rather than advance core missions.

I guess “when you're up to your *tuchas* (can't say “ass” in a Jewish monthly) in alligators, it's easy to forget you're in the swamp to drain it!” They often were, and I should have been more sympathetic, but forgetting why I am here scares me more than alligators.

It frustrates friends when I seem oblivious to alligators closing in.

I was deeply loved and protected by my parents, my unfailing safety net enabling me to “trapeze” my own way, wise or unwise. They made certain I

knew no matter how hard I fell, they would ensure I survived to once again “float through the air with the greatest of ease ...” (God now takes their place in my life.)

Sure, they wished I would stop taking so many chances. I know it sapped their

energy and resources and, of course, I used to feel guilty disrupting their lives with my “adventures.” I too wished that as a father, but my parents taught me that being there for your child always comes first, no matter how disruptive of your own life's plans.

What I wouldn't give now for more of those disruptions! Without them we may have settled tranquil existences, but are they really lives?

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

Like those Shakers, I've had supporters, but a lot more resistance and opposition.

From Selichot to Yom Kippur in a restless age

By Cantor Barry Butensky

The Jewish calendar builds a powerful arc from the haunting midnight prayers of Selichot through the awe of Rosh Hashanah and the solemnity of Yom Kippur. This period, stretching roughly from early September through late September (this year), isn't just ancient ritual. It's a practical toolkit for the pressures we face in 2026 and beyond.

Selichot begins in the pre-dawn hours or late at night with the congregation reciting penitential poems and the 13 attributes of mercy. The shofar sounds, waking us from spiritual slumber. In our always-on world of notifications and endless scrolls, this deliberate disruption feels radical. It forces us to pause and ask, “what have I been avoiding?”

Then, comes Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. The shofar blasts again, but now it's a coronation of the King and a call to judgment. We eat apples and honey, symbolizing hope for a sweet year. The liturgy speaks of G-d remembering and inscribing us in the Book of Life. For a generation anxious about the future — climate change, artificial intelligence and economic instability — this holiday reframes anxiety as accountability. It says your choices matter. The year is being written, and you're holding the pen.

The 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the Ten Days of Repentance. This is the window for *teshuvah*, returning. The tradition teaches that during these days the gates of heaven are especially open. It's not about perfection. It's about direction. One sincere



■ Cantor Barry Butensky

turn can change everything. In a culture that celebrates hustle and moving on, *teshuvah* offers something rarer: the permission to admit you were wrong and the power to begin again.

Yom Kippur arrives as the culmination. We fast, abstain from leather, from intimacy, from washing. The day is spent in synagogue, confessing sins in the plural, because we are

responsible for one another. The haunting Kol Nidre melody opens the evening, and by afternoon, we're reciting the Yizkor memorial service and the final Neilah service as the sun sets. The gates close. The book is sealed, but the message isn't despair. It's urgency.

You still have this moment.

What does this season offer someone living today?

First, structure.

Many of us feel unmoored, scrolling through news that never ends. The calendar gives rhythm. Selichot wakes you. Rosh Hashanah resets you. The Ten Days give you a deadline. Yom Kippur seals it. Deadlines create focus.

Second, honesty. The liturgy doesn't let us off the hook. We name our failures out loud, together. In a time of curated images and filtered lives, this collective confession is medicine. It normalizes the fact that everyone messes up. The only real failure is pretending we don't.

Third, hope. *Teshuvah* is built on the belief that change is possible. Not easy, not guaranteed, but possible. The shofar isn't a sound of condemnation. It's a wake-up call. The King is merciful. The gates are open. Even now.

The year is being written, and you're holding the pen.



Fourth, connection. We pray in community. We confess in the plural. We remember our dead together. In an age of isolation, this season insists we belong to something larger than our individual screens.

The practical takeaway is simple: pick one thing. During these weeks, choose one relationship to repair, one habit to change, one truth to face. Don't try to overhaul your whole life. Just turn in one direction. The tradition promises that sincere effort during this season carries extra weight. The calendar itself becomes an ally.

As the nights grow longer and the air turns crisp, the shofar is calling. Not just to ancient Jews in ancient lands, but to you,

here, now. Wake up. The year is being written. You hold the pen. What will you write with it?

G'mar Chatima Tovah.

Cantor Barry Butensky serves at Temple Beth Shalom in Cape Coral. 🌐

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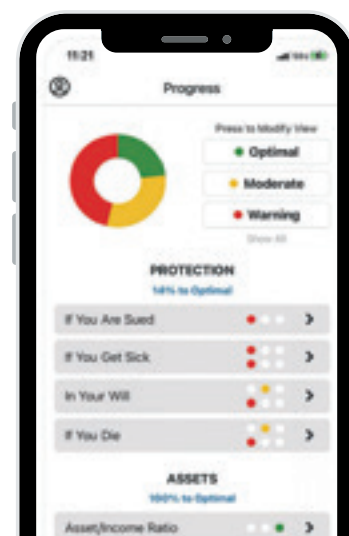


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How to start the year in four simple steps

By Rabbi David Arias

The number four is widely used in Jewish tradition and rituals. The four cups of the Seder, the four questions, our four Imahot (matriarchs), and the four new years we find in the Jewish calendar, one of which is Rosh Hashanah. The first of the month of Tishrei is referred to with four different names, and we can learn from each of them a different step to begin this new year.

Let's start with the two biblical ones: Yom Hazikaron (the Day of Remembrance) and Yom T'ruah (the Day of Blowing the Shofar).

Yom HaZikaron: The Day of Remembrance

What good memories did this year give you? What do you want to remember about this year next year? What do you



■ Rabbi David Arias

not want to remember? Maybe all these positive memories can help us repeat the exciting experiences we had and keep growing in all aspects of our lives.

Yom T'ruah: The Day of the Blasts, the Day of Blowing the Shofar

Look deep inside yourself. What needs to be awakened? The sound of the shofar is like an alarm clock. There is something asleep in our hearts and souls. What should we do to wake it up? Are we living our lives "awakenly" or are we living asleep through our daily routines?

Yom HaDin: The Day of Judgment

According to our sages, on Rosh

Hashana, each of us is judged for our own actions. How did we do over the past year? Maybe we are being too hard on ourselves. Do we need more compassion, or should we be more disciplined? Judging doesn't mean being rude; it means being honest.

Rosh Hashanah

Lastly, we call this holiday Rosh Hashanah, literally the head of the year. What do we want to start doing in this new year? What are we going to put as the *Rosh*, the head of our priorities, and how are we going to achieve that? Maybe we have been focusing too much on our work and jobs; maybe it is time to focus more on our family, friends and congregation. Unlike

Yom T'ruah, Rosh Hashanah is not about waking things that were asleep, but about starting something that wasn't there.

According to our sages, on Rosh Hashana, each of us is judged for our own actions.

Through the services and T'filot, as you pray and listen to the sound of the Shofar, keep in mind the four names of this *Hag* (holiday): *Zikaron*, *T'ruah*, *Din*, and *Rosh*. To remember and carry those memories with us. To wake up and reactivate things we

had abandoned. *Din*, judgment, to honestly reflect on our lives. And *Rosh*, the head, for a fresh new beginning, to prioritize and start new things.

Shanah Tovah!

Rabbi David Arias serves at Temple Judea in Fort Myers. 🌿

BS'D

TEMPLE JUDEA - 5787/2026

HIGH HOLIDAYS

Start the Year with Purpose

ROSH HASHANA EVE Friday, September 11 6:30 pm - Evening Service	ROSH HASHANA 2ND EVE Saturday, September 12 6:30 pm - Evening Service	YOM KIPPUR EVE Sunday, September 20 6:30 pm: Kol Nidrei 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm: Babysitting	YOM KIPPUR MINḤA Monday, September 21 4:00 pm: Special Program 5:00 pm: Minḥa Service 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm: Babysitting and children's programming
ROSH HASHANA DAY 1 Saturday, September 12 9:30 am: Shaḥarit Service 9:30 am - 1:30 pm: Babysitting and children's programming	ROSH HASHANA DAY 2 Sunday, September 18 9:30 am: Shaḥarit Service 9:30 am: Babysitting and children's programming 11:30: Shofar Service 1:00 pm: Tashlich	YOM KIPPUR DAY Monday, September 21 9:30 am: Shaḥarit Service 9:30 am - 2:00 pm: Babysitting and children's programming 11:30 am: Yizkor	6:30 pm: Neilah 8:00 pm: Havdalah

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Asking G-d for a good and sweet year

By Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz

It is a puzzling story: Chanah, a prophetess, stands before the holy ark at the Tabernacle at Shiloh; her lips are moving, but her voice cannot be heard.

Eli the High Priest is watching her. He waits until she finishes her prayer and then challenges her: “How long will you be drunk? Put away your wine.”

Chanah responds humbly, “No, my master. I am a woman of aggravated spirit. I have not drunk wine . . . I have poured out my soul before G-d.”

Why was she praying? She was childless, and she wanted a son. Her husband had told her, “Am I not better for you than 10 sons?” Inside, she knew the answer was “No.” She wanted a son.

Standing before G-d in the holy sanctuary, that was the only thing on her mind.

When Eli heard her response, he changed his tone and replied, “Go in



■ Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz

peace. The G-d of Israel will grant your request.”

The story calls forth many questions: Why did Eli think that she was drunk? He knew her; she would come to Shiloh every year. Besides, she was well-known among the Jewish people for her righteousness and saintly character. Moreover, even if he did not know her, Eli should not have jumped to hasty conclusions. This is especially true since he was the High Priest, the spiritual leader of the Jewish people.

If he did think she was drunk, why did he wait until she finished her prayer? He should have had her removed from the sanctuary immediately.

In a simple sense, it can be explained that he

did not think that she was drunk. After all, he saw that she was praying sincerely, but what was she praying for? Her own needs. In his mind, that was

akin to drunkenness. Just like a drunkard is totally absorbed in his stupor and can’t accurately perceive the world, a person can be so absorbed in what he or she wants that they can think only of their personal desires.

That is what Eli meant when he told Chanah that she was drunk — that she had one persistent thought: she wanted a child. That was all that she could think about. She was praying to G-d, but instead of focusing on what G-d wants or on the spiritual needs of others, all she could think of was her own need and desire.

How did Chanah’s reply answer that objection? Chanah was telling him that her desire for a child was not a result of a personal need or want. Rather, she had “poured out her soul before G-d” and that was the source for her request.

On the verse, “Being both hungry and thirsty, their soul languished within,” the Baal Shem Tov comments that, at times, the source for a person’s hunger or thirst is his soul. He may think he wants the food or the drink because of his material needs, but in truth, it is his spiritual mission that is

prompting the particular desire. Within every material entity, there are sparks of G-dliness.

Every soul has specific sparks that it is destined to elevate and refine by using those material entities for G-d’s purpose. That is the core of soul’s seeking material things.

This story was chosen as the *Haftorah* for the first day of Rosh HaShanah. Rosh HaShanah is the Day of Judgment. On this day, we all pour out our hearts in prayer, asking G d for a good and sweet year. It is quite possible that many of us will be concerned with our own wants, personal desires or needs, forgetting the larger picture — that the world as a whole is being judged, and we are but a small speck in this immense picture.

Nevertheless, if we are truly sincere, if our wants and desires come from the core of our souls, then G-d will certainly respond, granting us our requests, providing us all with a year replete with His blessings.

Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz serves at Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida. ☺



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JOE YEOMAN BAND	SATURDAY, SEPT 12
CARIBBEAN CHILLERS	THURSDAY, OCT 1
MONALLO BAND	FRIDAY, OCT 2
JIM ASBELL & THE TROPIHOLICS	SATURDAY, OCT 3
22N	FRIDAY, NOV 13
DEREK JONES	SATURDAY, NOV 21
JOE YEOMAN BAND	FRIDAY, NOV 27
ROCK REPUBLIC	SATURDAY, NOV 28
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**HIGH HOLY DAYS 2026/5778 WITH
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Selichot:

Saturday, Sept. 5
Dinner at 6:00pm
Service at 7:30pm

Rosh Hashanah Evening:

Friday, Sept. 11, 7:30pm

Rosh Hashanah Morning:

Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:00am



Yom Kippur Evening/Kol Nidre:

Sunday, Sept 20 7:30pm

Yom Kippur Morning Service:

Monday, Sept. 21, 10:00am

Mincha Service: 3:30pm

Yizkor Service: 4:30pm

Neila Service: 6:00pm

Break-the-Fast: 6:30pm

For tickets or more information call: 239-772-4555 702 SE 24th Avenue Cape Coral, Florida 33990
or email us at: office@templebethshalomcc.org www.templebethshalomcc.org



TEMPLE BETH SHALOM Cape Coral

(239) 772-4555 • www.templebethshalomcc.org

The High Holy Days are almost here again, and here at Temple Beth Shalom, they are magical.

The holidays start with a pot luck dinner and service for Selichot. This year we celebrate Selichot on Saturday evening, Sept. 5. The evening begins with dinner at 6 p.m. If you haven't tried the food at Temple Beth Shalom, there is no better time to start than now.

- Morning service will commence at 10 a.m.
- Afternoon services will begin with the Mincha service at 3:30 p.m.
- The Yizkor Memorial service will begin at approximately 4:30 p.m.
- Neilahat is at 6 p.m.
- Break-the Fast will immediately follow the service at approximately 6:30 p.m.



The cast of "Never Again"

We have some fabulous cooks from various backgrounds. The food is always delicious and plentiful!

The Selichot service starts at 7:30 p.m. with Havdalah, continues with changing the blue or burgundy Torah covers to the beautiful white ones, and ends with a candlelight procession out to the parking lot. The service is a beautiful way to start the holiday season.

Music has always been important to us at TBS, and we look forward to Cantor Barry's singing. At various times during the holidays, he will be accompanied by the piano, an accordion, the cello and, of course, the choir. Hearing the mix of voices, instruments and the congregation singing, the haunting melodies of the High Holidays creates the magical atmosphere.

High Holiday schedule

We hope you will join us for the holidays this year. Our High Holiday schedule is as follows:

Rosh Hashana

Friday, Sept. 11-
Saturday, Sept. 12

• Services begin Friday, Sept. 11, at 7:30 p.m., and continue Saturday, Sept. 12, at 10 a.m.

Kol Ndre

Sunday, Sept. 20

• Starts at 7:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur

Monday, Sept. 21

Sukkot

Sukkot comes quickly after Yom Kippur, and the day after Yom Kippur, a crew of members will erect the Sukkah — our children will be busy decorating it. The highlight will be on Friday, Sept. 25 when we have dinner and services under the stars in the Sukkah.

Join us

If you would like to come to services for the holidays, or any other time, please call our office at 239-772-4555 and leave a message. You may also send us an email at president@templebethshalomcc.org. We will get back to you promptly. You can also check out our website: templebethshalomcc.org. We are happy to answer any questions you may have. We love having guests, and you will be welcomed with open arms.

Looking back

While all I have talked about so far are the holidays, there is so much

more going on at Temple Beth Shalom. In July, we had our first ever dinner theater. The play, "Never Again," was written by our own Carin Hanan (with her daughter) and read very effectively by members of the congregation. It was a night to remember.

When the double earthquake erupted in Venezuela, George Laufer sprang into action and organized a collection



Religious School Open House

of items to be sent to help the people of Venezuela. Several carloads of medicines, paper goods, and more went to El Patio Restaurant (603 Del Prado Blvd S, Cape Coral) for shipment to Venezuela.

Looking ahead

We will celebrate Lea Rosenberg and Stephen Hertz's generosity to TBS at a dinner on Oct. 17. Lea and Steve are not only generous with their money, but also with their time, their expertise, their kindness and their experience. They joined Temple Beth Shalom towards the end of the COVID

pandemic, when everything seemed difficult. They saw that we needed help, and they stepped up to the plate. We will always be grateful to them.

Our Religious School, funded by Stephen Hertz, will start on Aug. 25, 4 p.m. and is open to children from Kindergarten through Bar/Bat Mitzvah. For more information on the Religious School, please email Raina Kearney at office@templebethshalom.org.

At TBS, we like to say that we are the home of joyous Judaism — you come as a guest and leave as family. We hope that you will come and experience for yourself the warmth and inspiration of our community.

Shanah tovah. 🌿



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TEMPLE JUDEA
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Temple Judea celebrates throughout September. Please join us as we prepare for the High Holidays.

Important dates

Be sure to mark your calendar for the following programs and services:

- Saturday, Sept. 5**
- Havdalah and Selichot Musical service with Rabbi David Arias, 8 p.m.
- Friday, Sep. 11**
- Erev Rosh Hashanah, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Sep. 12**
- Shaharit Rosh Hashanah I, 9:30 a.m.
 - Babysitting and Children's program, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (RSVP through the website.)
 - Rosh Hashanah, 2nd Eve, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Sep. 13**
- Shaharit Rosh Hashanah II, 9:30 a.m.
 - Babysitting and Children's program, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (RSVP through the website.)
 - Shofar Service, 11:30 a.m.

- Tashlich, approximately 1:30 p.m. (Time is subject to change.)
- Thursday, Sep. 17**
- Nashim Circle Tashlich (Time and place TBD.)
- Friday, Sep. 18**
- Musical Shabbat, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Sep. 20**
- Kol Nidrei, 6:30 p.m.
 - Babysitting, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (RSVP through the website.)
- Monday, Sep. 21**
- Shaharit Yom Kippur, 9:30 a.m.
 - Yizkor Service, approximately 11:30 a.m.
 - Babysitting and Children's program, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (RSVP through the website.)
 - Special Program, 4 p.m.
 - Minha Service, 5 p.m.
 - Neilah, 6:30 p.m.
 - Havdalah, 8 p.m.
 - Babysitting and Children's program, 5-8 p.m. (RSVP through the website.)
- Friday, Sep. 25**
- Kabbalat Shabbat and Erev

Sukkot, Shabbat Dinner in the Sukkah, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sep. 26

- Shaharit Sukkot I, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, Sep 27

- Sukkot B'Kef for Young Families and Children, 9:30 a.m.
- Steak and Scotch in the Sukkah, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 2

- Erev Simhat Torah and Hachnasat Sefer Torah (Inauguration of the New Torah Scroll) and dancing with the Torah, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 3

- Shaharit Simhat Torah (everyone gets an Aliyah!) and dancing with the Torah, 9:30 a.m.
- Yizkor Service, approximately 11:30 a.m.

Regularly scheduled events and programs

Temple Judea continues to accept food donations for the Cadkin Foundation Food Pantry at Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties. There are collection envelopes near the front door for contactless monetary or gift card contributions. Contributions may be mailed. Please call the office to ensure your contribution has been received.

Temple Judea is conducting in person services with an online Zoom option. Synagogue members can use the Zoom ID and password as published in our weekly megillah. Non-local residents may contact the synagogue for information.

Friday evening Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m. Saturday morning Shabbat services at 9:30 a.m. Kiddush luncheons are served every Shabbat. If you are interested in sponsoring a Kiddush, please contact JoAnn Lewin at jalewin2@aol.com. We would love to see you in person or via Zoom.

Nashim Circle's events are a beautiful way to come together. Join us on Thursday, Sep. 17, for the Nashim Circle Tashlich (time and place TBD). Register and review additional information online at tjswfl.org or call our office at 239-433-0201 for more details.

On break

The following events and programs are currently on break and will resume in the fall.

- Rabbi Arias' adult education classes
- Morning Minyan Monday, 9 a.m.
- Co-President Jan Klein's Monday morning availability at Temple Judea, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.☺



TEMPLE JUDEA
Conservative Synagogue

Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur

Kids' program schedule

FOR KIDS 11 YEARS OLD AND UNDER

ROSH HASHANAH

-  **Saturday, September 12**
9:30 AM – 1:30 PM
-  **Sunday, September 13**
9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

YOM KIPPUR

-  **Sunday, September 20**
6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
-  **Monday, September 21**
9:30 AM – 2:00 PM
-  **Monday, September 21**
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

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Weekly Sabbath Eve dinners at the synagogue resume Sept. 4, 6 p.m. with worship following at 7 p.m. The meals are free and open to all. Consider bringing a main course, side, salad, fruit bowl or dessert, but no dairy dishes please. Sabbath eve worship is not available via Zoom.

Now in its 30th year, Torah Study with the rabbi continues each Sabbath morning, 9:30-11 a.m., only via Zoom. Easy, open-access is available on the CFS website: fortmyerssynagogue.com.
Shabbat-Rosh Hashanah First Night worship begins at 7 p.m. in our main sanctuary on the Unity Campus (11120

Ranchette Road). There is no Sabbath Eve meal at the synagogue that evening. Shabbat-Rosh Hashanah prayers continue the next morning at 10 a.m.
Rosh Hashanah Second Day will be observed starting at 11 a.m. with *tashlikh* and shofar sounding by the rabbi's lake, followed by a pot-luck dairy-free lunch at the Diamonds' home (7210 Falcon Crest Court).
Yom Kippur Eve worship begins with the *kol nidre* at 7 p.m. Morning services start at 10 a.m., with *minhah-yiskor* starting at 5 p.m. A pot-luck break-the-fast will be served after *ma'ariv-neilah*.

Sukkah "Topping Off" is Friday, Sept. 25, at 5:30 p.m., followed by Shabbat-Sukkot dinner at 6 p.m. and worship at 7 p.m.
Now in its 22nd year, Community Free Synagogue, led by Rabbi Bruce Diamond, D.D., is an open community resource, welcoming all to its events for free without fundraising solicitations. Its purpose is providing a positive, harmonious and God-centered setting for authentic Jewish worship, study and benevolence.
To learn more about CFS, visit the website (fortmyerssynagogue.com.) or email synfree@comcast.net.

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Fort Myers(239) 433-7708 • www.Chabadswf.org

I never imagined that one day I would be called “rebbeztin.” It wasn’t a role I planned for or sought out, yet life has a remarkable way of leading us where we are meant to be. What began as simply supporting my husband has become a journey of building relationships, listening, learning and opening my heart to a community that has welcomed me so warmly.

I’ve discovered that being a rebbetzin isn’t about having all the answers or fitting a certain mold. It’s about showing up with kindness, authenticity, compassion and a willingness to serve. Every conversation, every shared joy and every challenge has deepened my appreciation for the privilege of walking alongside others in their lives.

While this was never the path I expected, I can honestly say it has become one of the greatest blessings of my life. I look forward to continuing to grow, learn and serve this community with gratitude, faith and love.

I hope that you’ll join us at the Chabad of Fort Myers Ladies Events. I look forward to meeting and getting to know you all. Accompanying this article are a few photos so you can get a small glimpse of some programs from the past (almost) year since I’ve joined.

Feel free to reach out to join, ask any questions, if I can help out or if you just want to shmooze. I can be reached at shani@chabadswf.org or 262-957-7350, and I’m looking forward to an amazing upcoming year!

Please feel free to join Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida (5620 Winkler Rd., Fort Myers, FL 33919) for the months of September and October 5787 (2026). The schedule of services is outlined below.

Friday nights: Welcoming the Shabbat services

- September, 7 p.m.
- October, 6:30 p.m.

Saturdays

- Kabbalah class, 9 a.m.
- Schacharit (Hodu), 10 a.m.
- Kiddush, 12:15 p.m.

High Holiday schedule

We hope to see you at Chabad Lubavitch of Southwest Florida for the High Holiday services.

Saturday, Sept. 5

- Selichot services, 1:15 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 11

- Rosh Hashana evening services, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 12

- Rosh Hashana Day 1



Kabbalah, 9 a.m.

- Services, 10 a.m.
- Evening services, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 13

- Rosh Hashana Day 2 services, 10 a.m.
- Shofar blowing, 11:30 a.m.
- Evening services, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 20

- Kol Nidre/Yom Kippur services, 7 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 21

- Yom Kippur services, 9 a.m.
- Yizkor, 10:45 a.m.
- Concluding Yom Kippur services, 5:30 p.m.

- Break-the-fast meal, 8 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 25

- Sukkot services, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 26

- Sukkot Day 1 Kabbalah, 9 a.m.
- Services, 10 a.m.
- Evening service, 6:45 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 27

- Sukkot Day 2 services, 10 a.m.
- Evening service, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 2

- Shmini Atzeret services, 6:30 p.m.
- **Rabbi's birthday party!**

Saturday, Oct. 3

- Sukkot/Shmini Atzeret Kabbalah, 9 a.m.
- Services, 10 a.m.
- Yizkor, 11 a.m.
- Services, 6:30 p.m. followed by a **Grand Simchat Torah party!**

Sunday, Oct. 4

- Sukkot/Simchat Torah services, 10 a.m.
- Services, 6:30 p.m.

Join us

Please join us for prayers, Torah Study, Ladies Events and Classes with Shani, Men’s Events and Family Events. For additional updates, please visit Chabad swf.org.

Daily prayers and Kaddish

- Sunday, 8 a.m.
- Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.
- Saturday, 10 a.m.
- Evenings, 7 p.m.

Torah Study

- Kabbalah Class: Saturday, 9 a.m.
- **Ladies Torah Study with Shani**
- Torah & Tea: Monday, 7 p.m.

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

~ Rebbetzin Shani Minkowicz 🕊️

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



Jewish Federation
of Lee & Charlotte Counties

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

Send an email to
debbiesanford@jfedlcc.org

TEMPLE SHALOM

Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands

(941) 625-2116 • www.templeshalomfl.com

Temple Shalom, the center of Jewish life in Charlotte County, is ready for the High Holy Days.

We will begin the season of reflection with a special musical Selichot service led by music director Dr. David Katz on Erev Shabbat: Sept. 4, 7:30 p.m.

The community is invited to join Rabbi Aaron Sataloff and the Temple Shalom congregation for High Holy Day services. Here are the key events:

- **Sept. 11** – Erev Rosh Hashanah, 7:30 p.m.
- **Sept. 12** – Rosh Hashanah, 10 a.m.
- **Sept. 20** – Kol Nidre, 7:30 p.m.
- **Sept. 21** – Yom Kippur, 10 a.m.; Afternoon, Yizkor and concluding services, 3:15 p.m.

Please consider joining us for Temple Shalom’s Rosh Hashanah luncheon and Yom Kippur break-the-fast. Make reservations for either or both meals by reaching out to Temple President Judi Migdol at jimigdol@gmail.com or 516-635-9871.

Also, please check the Temple Shalom Port Charlotte website for information about our plans for Sukkot later in September: templeshalomfl.com.

Social, educational and worship events at Temple Shalom in Port Charlotte, including Shabbat services held every Friday at 7:30 p.m., are open to all.

Temple Shalom is located at 23190 Utica Avenue in Port Charlotte. Visit our website for more information at templeshalomfl.com.

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For more information or to place an ad in L'CHAYIM call Bryana Garcia at 239.481.4449 x3, email her at Brigarcia@jfedLCC.org, or visit the L'CHAYIM page at www.JewishFederationLCC.org



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LUNCH Bunch



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at TEMPLE BETH EL

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Fort Myers, FL 33908

AT 12 PM

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SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Jewish Federation
OF LEE & CHARLOTTE COUNTIES

Questions? contact Elizabeth at
elizabeth@jfedlcc.org or 239.481.4449 ext. 4

TEMPLE BETH EL

Fort Myers

(239) 433-0018 • www.templebethel.com

Welcome to September at Temple Beth El! As the summer winds down, we enter a vibrant month filled with community, connection and the sacred rhythm of the High Holiday season. Whether you are joining us in person or online, there is a place for you here.

Upcoming events and High Holiday schedule

Please take note of the below referenced upcoming events and important High Holiday dates.

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 5 p.m.

Situational Awareness Workshop – A vital session for the entire congregation focused on safety and community awareness.

Friday, Sept. 4, 5:30 p.m.

Community Shabbat Reception and Services – Join us for wine, cheese and hors d'oeuvres before Erev Shabbat Services at 6:30 p.m., featuring Guest Cantor Portnoy. Please RSVP at 239-433-0018.

Saturday, Sept. 5, 8 p.m.

Selichot Service and Havdalah Dessert Reception – Usher in the High Holidays with us. Experience the moving tradition of changing the Torah covers to white. If you've never attended this beautiful service, it's one not to miss!

Monday, Sept. 7

Labor Day – Temple offices will be closed.

Rosh Hashanah

Be sure to mark your calendars for the services outlined below.

Friday, Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashanah services.

Saturday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m.

First Day services, including separate tot services and a High Holiday Junior Congregation (Pre-K through 3rd grade).

Saturday, Sept. 12, 12:30 p.m.

Tashlich — Join us by the peaceful pond in the Temple's backyard as we hear the shofar and symbolically cast away our sins.

Sunday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m.

Second Day Rosh Hashanah services.

Memorial Service and Yom Kippur

Be sure to mark your calendars for the services outlined below.

Friday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m.

"Annual Memorial Service" at Temple Beth El's Garden of Memories Cemetery — the first Jewish cemetery and only temple-owned cemetery in Lee County. All are welcome!

Sunday, Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Kol Nidre ushers in Yom Kippur.

Monday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m.

Yom Kippur morning services, Tot Yom Kippur, and Junior Congregation.

Monday, Sept. 21, 3 p.m.

Explore the Book of Jonah via Zoom.

Monday, Sept. 21, 5 and 6 p.m.

Yizkor and N'ilah services held in the sanctuary.

Sukkot and end-of-month gatherings

We look forward to seeing you at the following gatherings.

Friday, Sept. 25

Tot Shabbat resumes at 6 p.m., followed by our birthday and anniversary Shabbat at 7:30 p.m. (Erev Sukkot).

Saturday, Sept. 26

Religious School parents' dinner in the Sukkah.

Tuesday, Sept. 29

Jewish Federation Lunch Bunch at 11 a.m.; Ladies Who Lunch at 12:30 p.m.; and Women's Simcha Circle "Dinner in the Sukkah" at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy pizza, drinks and fun for \$10!

Ongoing programs and connection

In addition to the below programs, we also offer Current Events, Coffee & Chat, Theology & Life, Francophone & Hispanophone groups, Caring & Visitations, and more!

Mitzvah Cart – Drop off non-perishable food and personal care items in the lobby shopping cart whenever the building is open.

Weekly Shabbat Services – Fridays, 7:30 p.m., in the sanctuary, via Zoom, and streaming on Facebook.

Torah Study – Saturdays, 9 a.m., via Zoom.

12-Step Recovery Group – Saturdays, 11 a.m., via Zoom. Exploring recovery through Judaic principles using the book, "Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery."

History & Heritage – The third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., via Zoom.

Tot Shabbat – Sept. 25 and Oct. 16, 6 p.m. Enjoy pizza and a kid-friendly service! Please call 239-433-0018 to RSVP.

Jews by Choice – The last Thursday of the month, 8-9 p.m., via Zoom. A safe, confidential setting to discuss the delights and challenges of converting and reconnecting.

Connect with us via Facebook (@TempleBethElFortMyers) and Instagram (@templebethelformyrs). You may also call us at 239-433-0018.

Temple Beth El ... where everyone matters.

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

**BAT YAM TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS
REFORM**

Friday evening services at 7pm at the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ
2050 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel
Spiritual Leader and Cantor:
Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer
President: Allison Goldberg
Vice Presidents:
Daniel Sager, Annette Pacyga
Email: batyamsanibel@gmail.com
Website: batyam.org
Services: September through April
For more information on our service times and programs, please write to batyamsanibel@gmail.com or PO Box 84, Sanibel, FL 33957

**CHABAD
OF BONITA SPRINGS/ESTERO
ORTHODOX**

24611 S. Tamiami Trail
Bonita Springs, FL 34135-7024
Rabbi Mendy Greenberg
Phone: 239-949-6900
Web site: JewishBonita.com
Services: Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
followed by a Kiddush

**CHABAD JEWISH CENTER
OF CAPE CORAL
ORTHODOX**

1716 Cape Coral Pkwy. W.
Cape Coral, FL 33914
Rabbi Yossi Labkowski
Phone: 239-963-4770
E-mail: info@chabadcape.com
Web site: chabadcape.com
Sunday - Friday 8:00 A.M. Shacharit
Friday Evening 5:30 P.M.
Saturday Kabbalah Class 9:00 A.M.
Shabbat Services 9:30 A.M.
Kiddush Luncheon 12:00 P.M.
Hebrew School of the Arts Sunday 10:00 A.M - 12:30 P.M.
JLI Classes Monday 7:00 P.M.
Torah Study Tuesday 7:30 P.M.
Women's Weekly Class Wednesday 11:30 A.M.

**CHABAD OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY
ORTHODOX**

424 W Henry St
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Rabbi Simon Jacobson
Phone: 941-833-3381
E-mail: chabadpg@yahoo.com
Web site: chabadofcharlottecounty.com
Services: Saturday at 10:00 a.m. followed by a kiddush
Torah study: Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

**CHABAD LUBAVITCH
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
ORTHODOX**

5620 Winkler Road
Fort Myers, FL 33919
Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz
Phone: 239-433-7708 • Fax: 481-9109
E-mail: rabbi@chabadswf.org
Web site: chabadswf.org
Services: Friday 5:15 p.m.;
Saturday Kabbalah
class 9:00 a.m.; Shacharit 10:00 a.m.;
Kiddush at noon
Minyan: Monday & Thursday 7:00 a.m.

**SYNAGOGUES &
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Jewish Federation
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www.JewishFederationLCC.org

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The Unity Campus 11120 Ranchette Road
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Web site: fortmyerssynagogue.com
Sabbath Eve Dinner every Friday at 6:00 PM
followed by worship at 7:00 PM
Torah Study on Zoom every Sabbath morning
from 9:30-11:00 AM
Meeting Room ID: 527 117 7864
Passcode: 435419
Rabbi Bruce Diamond, D.D.
Cantoral soloist Traci Pavel

**CHAVURAT SHALOM OF SWFL
CHAVURA**

PO Box 722
Sanibel, FL 33957
Chavuratshalom@gmail.com
Web site:
chavuratshalomofsouthwestflorida.org
Cheryl Fulmer, President
Shabbat services - 7:30 p.m. every Friday
Schmooze - 7:30 p.m. 1st Tuesday
Torah Talk - 7:30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday
Current events - 7:30 p.m. 3rd Tuesday
Speakers - 7:30 p.m. 4th Tuesday

**TEMPLE BETH EL
REFORM**

16225 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908
Rabbi Nicole Luna
E-mail: rabbiluna@templebethel.com
Learning Tree Preschool Director: Ronni Vega
Ronnilearningtree@gmail.com
President: Michael Altman
Email: President@templebethel.com
Phone: 239-433-0018
Office Manager: Karen Kagan
Email: manager@templebethel.com
Web site: templebethel.com
Shabbat services: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Torah study 9:00 a.m. Saturday
Religious School: 9:30 a.m.- Noon Sunday
Mazel Tots (0-5 yrs. old). Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Religious school coordinator: Allison Fego
Religiousschool@templebethel.com
Judaica Gift Gallery
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

**TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
REFORM**

702 S.E. 24th Ave., Cape Coral, FL 33990
President: Helene Glocer
Phone: 239-772-4555
Spiritual leader: Cantor Barry Butensky
Email: templebethshalomcommunications@gmail.com
Web site: templebethshalomcc.org
Services: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Saturday morning Torah Service/Torah
study twice monthly at 10:00 am
Enrichment night every Wednesday
at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.
Shabbat 10:30 a.m.

**TEMPLE JUDEA
CONSERVATIVE**

14486 A&W Bulb Road
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Rabbi David Arias
E-mail: rabbi@tjswfl.org
Co-Presidents: Jan Klein & James Mann
E-mail: giaof3@gmail.com
Religious School Coordinator:
Tehila Cherubino
E-mail: tehila@tjswfl.org
Preschool Director: Suki Kelly
templejudeapreschool@gmail.com
Phone: 239-433-0201 • Fax: 239-433-3371
E-mail: tjswfl@gmail.com
Web site: tjswfl.org
Services: 6:15 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m.
Saturday Minyan: 9:00 a.m. Monday
Religious School: Sun. 9:30 a.m. - noon;
Wed. 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
Early childhood education: Preschool, M-F,
ages 18 months-5 years;
"Mommy & Me," 12 months-2 years
Affiliated: United Synagogue of
Conservative Judaism

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

23190 Utica Ave., P.O. Box 494675
Port Charlotte, FL 33949-4675
President: Judith Migdol
Phone: 941-625-2116
E-mail: Shalompc06@gmail.com
Web site: templeshalomfl
Organizations: Sisterhood; Brotherhood
Affiliated: Union for Reform Judaism

**SHALOM LIFE CENTER
TRANS DENOMINATIONAL**

Rabbi Lawrence Dermer
Phone: 239-218-3433
Email: info@shalomlifecenter.org
Web site: shalomlifecenter.org

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- AIPAC
(American Israel Public Affairs Committee):
Lynda Adler & Ian Noy - 617-676-7567
- AJC (American Jewish Committee):
Brian Lipton - 941-365-4955
- Anti-Defamation League: 561-988-2900
- B'Nai B'rith International: 941-302-4500
- Chabad Jewish Student Life at FGCU
Rabbi Mendel Gordon - 347-452-0489
mendelgordon@gmail.com
- Chevra Kadisha: Taryn Sasser
- Generations of the Shoah SWFL: 263-9200
- Hadassah - Collier/Lee Chapter:
Joyce Toub - 518-330-1559
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941-462-1330 ext. 865
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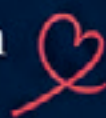
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