

LOCAL NEWS

How being an immigrant shaped my life

By Sonia Pressman Fuentes

On May 1, 1934, when I was a month short of my sixth birthday, my parents, my older brother, and I came to New York City on the S.S. Westernland to escape from the Holocaust. My parents had both born in the late 1890s in a shtetl in Poland but they had lived in Germany for over 20 years.

The dictionary says that to immigrate is "to come into a new country, region or environment, especially in order to settle there." The operative word for me in that definition is "new." To immigrate is to come to a new country and have new experiences. And, like everything worthwhile in life, to be an immigrant is both a blessing and a curse.

It's a blessing because it's challenging and exciting to do something new, something different, something everyone else isn't doing. It's a curse because it's scary to embark on any new activity. So to be an immigrant is to be continually caught in the tension of the excitement of being an outsider to a society and the stigma of being different from those around you. To be an immigrant

is to constantly reflect on who you are, where you came from, and how you are different from those around you. When you're an immigrant, you don't really belong anywhere – and you're never really at home anywhere. It is a wrench to be torn from the country of your birth and the feeling of dislocation never leaves you.

I am an American citizen but I wasn't born here so I'm not totally an American. I'm certainly not a German, either. I returned to Germany in 1978 as a speaker on women's rights for the then-United States Information Agency, because to be an immigrant is to want to stay in the country you came to but to also long to return to the country you came from. Being an immigrant saved my life – and robbed me of my childhood.

When I see photographs or movies about Germany or hear German songs, I wonder who I would have been and who I would have become if Hitler hadn't caused my family to leave there. That is, of course, a speculation to which one can never have an answer. But it is the kind of speculation that haunts immigrants.

I became an immigrant at the age of five and have remained one all my life. The fact that I left Germany and came to the United States has colored everything I've been and done since then. It made me different from most of those with whom I came in contact. Actually, more than 40 percent of all living Americans – over 100 million people – can trace their roots to an ancestor who came through Ellis Island. The influx of immigrants to the United States between 1892 and 1954, during which time 12 million immigrants were processed at Ellis Island, was the largest human migration in modern history.

But I didn't know that when I was a child. What I knew was that I was different from my classmates. I had European parents and was European myself. My classmates in the Catskill Mountains were all born in this country, as were their parents, by and large. My parents spoke a foreign language at home and had ideas and customs that differed from those of the parents of my classmates. I had no grandparents in this

country and no close cousins with whom I could play.

And I was Jewish. When I was growing up in the 1930s and '40s, being Jewish wasn't what it is today. Today it's chic to be Jewish or to be a member of another ethnic minority. Back then it was a mark of difference. It set you apart from the mainstream of the culture. I always remember feeling particularly excluded at Christmas time – the beautiful Christmas trees, the lights, the carols, the exchange of presents, the family gatherings – all that was not for me. I was the outsider. That's what immigrants are. They are outsiders, aliens to the culture. Ultimately, I became a writer; writers, too, tend to be outsiders. Writers and immigrants can look at a culture and see it from a vantage point that differs from that of those who are an integral part of it.

Because I had escaped from the Holocaust and was able to come to this



Sonia Pressman Fuentes in 2006

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Sonia with her parents in 1931



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LOCAL NEWS

IMMIGRANT *continued from page 13*

country, I felt that I was not free as other people were to pursue personal happiness. I felt I had been saved for a purpose and that there was something I needed to do with my life to contribute to society.

Those feelings led to my going to law school in 1954, when about three percent of the nation's lawyers were women, taking a job with the newly-created Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in Washington, D.C., in 1965 as the first woman attorney in its Office of the General Counsel, and becoming a founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1966. I concluded that the contribution I could make to society was to fight employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin. Minorities and women in this country were set apart, treated differently, and discriminated against – all conditions natural to immigrants. As it turned out, I became an expert in the law prohibiting sex discrimination.

Shortly after we arrived in this country, my parents applied for their citizenship papers and five years later, when they

became citizens, I automatically became a citizen on my father's papers. But I was never comfortable with the fact that I did not have my own papers. So while I was a student at Cornell University in the '50s, I applied for my own papers. Thereafter, in Ithaca, New York, there was a ceremony just for me where I was given my own citizenship papers. That was quite a thrill. I have always felt that I appreciate the privilege of living in this country more than those who were born here and I have never, ever taken it for granted.

When one thinks about immigration, the two symbols that come to mind are the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. I visited the Statue of Liberty years ago; next to the flag, it is our country's most famous symbol for freedom and has been referred to as the most famous immigrant ever to come to this country. It was a gift to the U.S. from the people of France in recognition of the bonds formed between our two countries during the Revolutionary War, as a lasting memorial to independence, and to show that France was also dedicated to the idea of human liberty. For millions of immigrants, their first glimpse of



Sonia and her brother, Hermann Pressman, in Antwerp, Belgium in 1933-34



Sonia with her parents, Hinda and Zysia Pressman, in 1950 at Sonia's graduation from Cornell University

America was the Statue of Liberty.

When I visited the Statue, I read again the poem on the bronze plaque at its base, the poem that is almost as famous as the statue itself. That poem, titled "The New Colossus," written in 1883 by Emma Lazarus, who was Jewish, ends as follows:

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me:

I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Those sentiments haven't always represented U.S. policy but, to the extent possible, they should remain our goal.

In October 1996, I took the ferry at Battery Park to Ellis Island. From 1892 to 1924, Ellis Island was the principal federal immigration station in the United States. More than 12 million immigrants were processed there. My family didn't go to Ellis Island when we arrived in 1934. After 1924, Ellis Island was no longer the entry point for newly-arrived immigrants. Instead, prospective immigrants applied for their visas at American consulates in their countries, where the paperwork and medical inspections were carried out.

Also, my family traveled first class, and first- and second-class passengers who arrived in New York Harbor underwent a cursory inspection aboard ship and were not required to undergo the inspection process at Ellis Island. The theory was

that if you could afford to purchase a first- or second-class ticket, you were less likely to become a public charge.

The situation was very different for steerage or third-class passengers. Third class was called steerage because those passengers were housed on the lower decks of the ships where the steering mechanism had once been housed. For third-class passengers, their first step on American soil was on Ellis Island. These immigrants traveled in crowded and often unsanitary conditions near the bottom of the steamship with few amenities, often spending up to two weeks seasick in their bunks during rough Atlantic Ocean crossings. They traveled in terror that during their examinations at Ellis Island they would be found to have a contagious disease or considered likely to become a public charge and they would be returned to their countries of origin. Actually, only two percent of the immigrants who passed through Ellis Island were turned away but that translated to over 250,000 people whose hopes and dreams turned to tears.

In thinking about my life and my involvement in women's rights, the common thread that runs through both is change. Life is change – change over which we have little or no control and change that we ourselves, on our own or working with like-minded people, can make. As Anne Frank said, "How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment, we can start now, start slowly changing the world!"

Copyright 2002 by Sonia Pressman Fuentes. Fuentes has lectured on "How Being an Immigrant Shaped My Life" at Cornell University and other venues. Versions of this article appeared in "120 HIAS Stories," published in July 2002, and online in April 2006 in Women in Judaism, a multi-disciplinary journal.



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Education corner

Teaching ethics in an unethical world

By Sid Krupkin

Education Director, Martin & Mildred Paver Religious School

If your children watched television at all during the month of October, they were regularly exposed to a bombardment of lies, deceit and corruption. It was otherwise referred to as political advertising and, this year in particular, it posed a moral dilemma for us all. Each candidate claimed that its opponent was lying about his professional conduct. How could both of them be right? The claim was either true, as one would claim, or false, as the other protested. Somewhere in the exchange of accusations our children and the other disgusted viewers were exposed to lies, whether we knew which candidate was guilty or not.

How do we explain to our children that even potential civic leaders and holders of governmental office will stoop to dishonesty in order to achieve their goals? How do we expect to encourage high values and moral behavior in our children when the society they see around them seems so corrupt? Our older children already seem to know that rich defendants have a better chance in a courtroom than poor people do. They already know that some of the health claims made by manufacturers of medicines and food products are misleading or false. They've heard that some heads of corporations have absconded with huge revenues at the expense of their own employees. Their world seems filled with temptation and greed yet we are asking them to be righteous and good.

Jewish educators and parents have a responsibility to fight against the negative and de-moralizing influences that threaten to corrupt our children. We share a crucial mission that can be accomplished by showing them a better world. That world can seem a lot more ethical and meaningful to our children when they are able to observe ethical conduct in their own homes. It can seem a lot more hopeful when they are given a strong moral foundation through the teachings of the Torah and the Talmud. A child can learn to make better choices if he has the opportunity to consider a clearer set of options for the challenges of adulthood.

It is for these reasons that a post-B'nai Mitzvah program of education can make a significant difference. Teenagers need opportunities to consider issues like honesty, loyalty, privacy, sexuality, violence, family responsibility, forgiveness and community service, to name a few. They need to think about these matters and more before they enter into relationships and situations where their conduct may have a serious impact. They need mentors and role models to guide them in regard to decisions and courses of action. And they need to study the Five Books of Moses before determining their identity as a Jewish adult.

Our Jewish teachings tell us that whenever we behave in an unethical way there is a price to pay. Every immoral act requires atonement of some sort in the end. Someone lies, someone cheats, someone commits a violent crime – but we must never accept it as the morally correct path. We have a source of reference and a source of guidance in our teachings and they can truly influence way we choose to live.

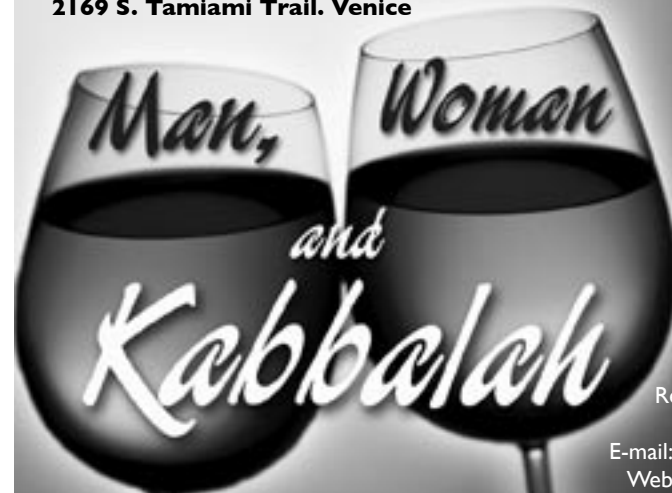
So how can we expect our children to become moral, ethical members of society? By being that way ourselves and by educating them unflinchingly with the ancient wisdom that sustained our forefathers and will sustain us today, even in an unethical, uncompromising world.

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LOCAL NEWS

Ongoing programs/educational opportunities

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE**Aspects of Music Study Group**

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 1:30 p.m.

Baroque and classical music with pianist Iris Graffman Bergas and vocalist Anne Sherwood. Call Carole Singer (941.387.3355).

Gems Study Group

Wednesday Jan. 10, 10:00 a.m.

Tour the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* building. Limited capacity; call Maris Freed (941.993.4555).**Hebrew Stories Study Group**

Monday, Jan. 16, 10:00 a.m.

(Robb & Stucky Community Room)

"Cut Off" by Yitzhak Dov Berkowitz.

Meandering through Manhattan

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2:00 p.m.

(Fruitville Library, Sarasota)

"The Nanny Diaries" by McLaughlin and Kraus.

Modern Novels Study Group

Monday, Jan. 8, 9:45 a.m.

(Roskamp Community Center)

"The Book of Salt" by Monique Tuong.

Opera Study Group

Monday, Jan. 22, 1:30 p.m.

(Northern Trust Bank, Lakewood Ranch)

"Madame Butterfly" by Puccini. Presenter:

Eunice Cohen.

Plays Study Group

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 10:00 a.m.

"Sister Rosensweig" by Wendy Wasserstein. Presenter: Marcy Decker and friends. Call Florence Korchin (941.359.1295) for location.

Reel Discussion Study Group

Thursday, Jan. 18, 1:30 p.m.

(Fruitville Library)

Call Phyllis Ross for film (941.383.4212).

Study group fee: \$30/members; includes 12 study groups.

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CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

(Unity, 3023 Proctor Rd., Sarasota)

The U.S. Economic Mess

Saturday, Jan. 6, 10:30 a.m.

Stan Katz, Ph.D. in International Politics and Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Economics in the Nixon, Ford and Carter administrations, became the first American V.P. of the Asian Development Bank in the Philippines. He will discuss economic problems facing the new Congress. Free and open to the public.

Call Irv or Sim Lesser (941.358.9978).



Stan Katz

GULFSIDE ORT**Paid-up Membership Reception**

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 1:00 p.m.

(Jewish Federation, 580 McIntosh Road, Sarasota)

All paid-up members will be honored at this event. Noted book reviewer Phyllis Jaffe will discuss Saul Bellow's classic, "Seize the Day." RSVP by Jan. 9; call Nancy Mills (941.966.8008) or Beverly Mann (941.927.7243).

JEWISH FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICE

(2688 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, 941.366.2224)

Bereavement Support Group

Thursdays, 10:30 am - 12:00 noon (JFCS)

The group, for people at all stages of loss, provides opportunities to hear how others deal with grief, share experiences, receive support and discover new ways to cope. Call Dale Block.

Bereavement Support Group for Parents & Grandparents

Thursday, Jan. 4, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

The death of a child or grandchild is one of the deepest losses people may experience. This monthly support group will provide the opportunity to receive support, discover ways to cope and hear how others deal with the loss of a child. Free. Call Dale Block.

Caregiver Support Group

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (JFCS)

Fridays, 1:15-3:00 p.m. (St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Venice)

Caregivers participate in a weekly support group to discuss concerns and gain knowledge about community resources. Respite care for loved ones is provided during the session. Call Pam Baron.

Mentor/Tutor Volunteer Support Group

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2:00-3:30 p.m. (JFCS)

Support group for volunteers who mentor and tutor middle school students who attend Safe Alternative to Out-of-School Suspension Programs. Call Caroline Zucker.

Parenting Class

Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Children don't come with manuals. This class will give you insight into questions and issues that come up in everyday life and will help you manage the challenges that come your way. Continues through March 1. Call Marcy Stern.

Senior Outreach Services

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Temple Beth Israel)

Wednesdays, 10:30 am-1:30 p.m. (JFCS)

Homebound older adults can maintain their independence, increase their involvement with friends and community, and enhance their mental health through education and social activities. Medicare assignment accepted. Transportation and lunch provided by JFCS. Call Pam Baron.

Women's Leadership Council

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

WLC provides women networking and fellowship opportunities to develop leadership roles in the Jewish community and education regarding community needs and available programs and services. Call Andria Bilan.

PRIME TIMERS JEWISH SINGLES GROUP

(Temple Emanu-El, 151 McIntosh Rd., Sarasota)

Speaker: Dr. Hal Burke

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 7:00 p.m.

From 2004-2006, Dr. Hal Burke, Pastor and Florida Relief Coordinator for hurricane aid, rebuilt over 1,000 homes with his diligent army of compassionate volunteers. He will share his experiences. Social hour to follow. Cost: \$2 for refreshments. Call Edie Jacobs (941.921.3131).

Speaker: Jay Handelman

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 7:00 p.m.

Jay Handelman, noted theater and television critic for the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, will entertain with his wit and humor. Social*Continued on page 17*

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LOCAL NEWS

PROGRAMS *continued from page 16*



Jay Handelman

hour to follow the presentation. Cost: \$2 for refreshments. Call Edie Jacobs (941.921.3131).

SABRA CHAPTER OF HADASSAH Annual Membership Luncheon

Thursday, Jan. 11, 11:30 a.m. (Laurel Oak Country Club, 2700 Gary Player Blvd., Sarasota)

Musical program performed by Irene Herman and accompanist Caroline Decker. Call Alice (941.907.0100) or Sheila (941.388.9492).

Movies with Jewish-Israeli Tam 2

Thursday, Jan. 4, 9:30 a.m. (Temple Beth Sholom, 1050 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota)

In "Hester Street," Gitl, a young, Jewish traditional woman, comes to America in the 1890s with her son, Yossele, to join her Americanized husband. Free and open to the public. Call Willie (941.907.2683).

SARASOTA-MANATEE JEWISH FEDERATION

(Klingenstein Jewish Center, 580 McIntosh Rd., Sarasota, 941.371.4546)

Florence Melton Adult Mini-School

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The Mini-School, a project of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, enables Jewish learners from all backgrounds to learn about Jewish traditions and culture in a challenging and inspiring course of study. Classes, which began in September, meet for two hours weekly, for 30 weeks per year, for two years. Two graduate classes begin in November. For more information, call Rosa Mandelblum (ext. 107).

Parent Education Program

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. & Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Parents from all Jewish backgrounds are

invited to strengthen their understanding of Judaism and gain the confidence to nurture the Jewish identity of their family in a warm, friendly environment. Classes began in September and run for 30 weeks. Cost: \$100/person; tuition is subsidized through a grant from the Avi Chai Foundation. For more information, call Rosa Mandelblum (ext. 107).

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

(567 Bay Isles Rd., Longboat Key, 941.383.3428)

Miniversity of Judaism

Bible Commentary Series: Selections from Genesis

Monday, Jan. 22, 2:00 p.m. Presenter: Rabbi Herbert Rose.

Jewish Art: A Canvas of Many Colors

Wednesdays, Jan. 10 & 17, 2:00 p.m. Presenter: Kevin Costello.

The Jewish Gymnasium

Thursdays, Jan. 18, 25 & 30, 2:00 p.m. Presenter: Rabbi Michael Eisenstat.

The Jewish Life Cycle

Wednesdays, Jan. 24 & 31, 2:00 p.m. Learn what you need to know about your grandchildren and yourselves: beginnings and endings. Concludes on Feb. 7. Presenter: Rabbi Peter Kasdan.

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Bible Study

Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. Read and study the Bible with Biblical Scholar Dr. Ruth Simons. A section of the Bible is read, studied and discussed to discover its deeper meaning. Contact Dr. Simons (941.922.8659).

Brotherhood Breakfast Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 21, 9:30 a.m. Rabbi Ronald L. Gray, executive vice

president of Boys Town Jerusalem, will be the featured speaker. Boys Town Jerusalem was founded in 1949 as a haven for young Jewish refugees from war-torn Europe. Rabbi Gray will tell the story of BTJ. Cost: \$5; includes breakfast.

Friday Night Congregational Dinner

Friday, Jan. 5, 6:00 p.m. The first Friday of every month, the Temple holds a congregational dinner. Bring a dessert to share. Family services follow at 7:00 p.m. Cost: \$5/person, \$15/family. Contact Jamie Warren (941.378.9839) for reservations.

Sisterhood Dinner & a Movie

Saturday, Jan. 13, time TBA. Enjoy a social evening including dinner and a movie. Open to the community. Cost: \$12.50/person. Call Deena Replane (941.927.4943) for further information.

Sisterhood Luncheon Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 12:00 p.m. Guest speaker Brian Moon, adventurer and founder of "Missing in Action Hunters," travels around the world searching for and finding missing World War II heroes. He has brought home many MIA's and brought closure to many grateful families. His program topic will be "The Mutiny on the Bounty Episode." Lunch will be served. Call Jackie Gilden (941.359.9401) for cost and reservations.

TEMPLE SINAI

(4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota, 941.924.1802)

Jewish Genealogy 101

Sunday, Jan. 7, 1:00-3:00 p.m.




Kim Sheintal

This program is facilitated by Kim Sheintal, the president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida. Sheintal will give participants an overview of genealogy: its history, how to begin your personal search, basic tools and online research resources. Free and open to the public. Call the Temple office.

Women of Sinai Evening Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:00 p.m. A hubby in the trunk, confessions of a prom queen, a goldfish who survived a hurricane, and a grandmother's "hush," - these stories and more will be read by Temple Sinai members Gloria Scheiner, Marilyn Shapo, Janet Stollman and Karen Weinstein, along with Barbara Berkowitz and Sandi Yoffee. Dessert reception begins at 7:00 p.m.; the program begins at 7:30 p.m. Cost: free/members, \$5/public. Call Etta Raiken (941.349.6382).

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JEWISH HAPPENINGS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5



Prof. Steven Katz

Temple Beth Israel (567 Bay Isles Rd., Longboat Key) presents its annual **Scholar-in-Residence** program, sponsored by the Edward and Ruth Wilkof Memorial Fund. Professor Steven Katz, Professor of Religion and Director of Judaic Studies at Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies, Boston University, will address "The Messianic Idea in Judaism" this evening at 8:00 p.m. and tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m. On Sunday, Jan. 7 at 9:30 a.m., Prof. Katz will discuss "The Unique Character of American Judaism"; includes a bagel and lox breakfast (courtesy of the TBI Men's Club). Free and open to the public; reservations required for the Jan. 7 breakfast lecture. Call Gayle Benator (941.383.3428) for further information.

THURSDAY JANUARY 11



Ruth Daniel

Gerard Daniel and his family, the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation and Temple Beth Israel present a **Memorial to Ruth Daniel, z"l**, who passed away on June 22, 2006 at the age of 83. Ruth was a community leader and philanthropist whose support for the State of Israel and children's causes in our community, as well as her work on behalf of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, have inspired all those who knew her. Featured speaker is Rabbi Richard Hirsch of Jerusalem, Chairman of the Zionist General Council and Honorary Life President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Other speakers will include Rabbi Michael Eisenstat, Temple Beth Israel; Howard Tevlowitz, executive director, Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation; and a member of the Daniel family. The children's choir of Children First, an organization Ruth staunchly and lovingly supported, will sing. This event is free and open to the public. For further information, call Temple Beth Israel (941.383.3428) or Gerard Daniel (941.954.3260).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Center Stage at the Flanzer JCC Branch of the Sarasota Family YMCA (580 McIntosh Rd., Sarasota) presents **An Evening with 'Rodney Dangerfield'**, featuring Bill Peterson, at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Peterson has been doing "Rodney" for over 20 years. While the real Rodney was alive, he saw Bill and said his act was so close to the real thing it was "spooky." Warning: mature language. Tickets: \$18/public, \$15/JCC-YMCA members. Call the Center Stage Box Office for reservations (941.378.5568, ext. 227).



'Rodney Dangerfield'

Americans for Peace Now presents a **Community Forum on Israel** at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Shalom (1050 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota). Speaker (and Americans for Peace Now founder) Mark Rosenblum will discuss "Israeli & Palestinian Peace: Between the Impossible and the Inevitable." In addition to his work with APN, Rosenblum is a long-time faculty member of the History Department at Queens College, CUNY and director of the Michael Harrington Center. Rosenblum was recently selected by the Clinton Global Initiative as one of two winners of an award for work in the field of Religion, Conflict and Reconciliation. Free and open to the public. This event is co-sponsored by the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation. For more information, contact Marcia Smith (941.922.3097).



Mark Rosenblum

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

Center Stage at the Flanzer JCC Branch of the Sarasota Family YMCA (580 McIntosh Rd., Sarasota) presents the Winkler Lecture Series offering, **Prominent Jewish Women from Biblical Times to the Present** at 7:00 p.m. Hana Robbins presents a three-part lecture, tonight through Wednesday, featuring prominent Jewish women from Biblical times to modern times, focusing on how these women have endured lives ranging from equity to second-class citizenry through the centuries. Cost: \$8/public, \$5/JCC-YMCA members (one lecture); \$19/public, \$12/JCC-YMCA members (all three lectures). Call the Center Stage Box Office for reservations (941.378.5568, ext. 227).



Hana Robbins

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

The Brandeis University National Women's Committee presents its **University on Wheels** at The Glenridge Performing Arts Center (7333 Scotland Way, Sarasota) from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Ann Koloski Ostrow, Brandeis University Professor and Chair of Classical Studies, will speak about "Murder, Rape and Adultery" through the mythological meaning in Pompeian Wall Paintings. Her lecture will be illustrated with colorful slides. Cost: \$20/members, \$25/public advance purchase; \$27/at the door; includes mini-breakfast. This event benefits the Brandeis University Science for Life Campaign. For further information or to RSVP, call event chair Eunice Cohen (941.349.4367).

JEWISH HAPPENINGS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Center Stage at the Flanzer JCC Branch of the Sarasota Family YMCA (580 McIntosh Rd., Sarasota) presents **J-Cabaret: Latin Folk Fest** at 8:00 p.m. The duo of soprano Dora Inés Cardona and pianist Elena Pierini joins with Colombian percussionist Daniel Acosta and dancers Lauren Nash and Albert Rombold for an incredible night of Latin Bohemian Music. The audience will have an opportunity to dance and sing or just take pleasure in listening to some of the most beautiful Latin melodies. Refreshments and soft drinks available for purchase. Seating is table-style. Cost: \$14/public, \$12/JCC-YMCA members. Call the Center Stage Box Office for reservations (941.378.5568, ext. 227).



Dora Inés Cardona



Elena Pierini

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

Chabad of Venice & North Port and Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation present **Men, Women and Kabbalah** featuring Rabbi Dr. Laible Wolf. During this spiritual adventure, discover the Kaballah of Intimacy, Commitment and the world of “user-friendly relationships.” This event takes place at the Chabad Jewish Center (2169 S. Tamiami Tr., Venice) at 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$12/advance reservations, \$15/at the door, \$50/sponsors (includes private reception with Rabbi Wolf at 6:00 p.m.). Call Chabad (941.493.2770) for further information and reservations.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

The Men’s Club of Temple Beth Israel (567 Bay Isles Rd., Longboat Key) presents lecturer Dr. John Goodman, program director for Sarasota Music Archives’ Second Sunday at Selby and current president of the Sarasota Concert Association, as he discusses **Wagner and the Jews: A Study in Contradictions** at 7:00 p.m. That Richard Wagner was a notorious anti-Semite is a matter of fact. There is a deep paradox when great art emanates from an artist whose basic position is immoral. Dr. Goodman will examine these paradoxes with illustrations from Wagner’s writings and musical excerpts from his operas. Cost: \$15/TBI members, \$20/public advance purchase; \$20/at the door (space permitting). Call the Temple office (941.383.3428).

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19



Rabbi Sherwin Wine

The Congregation for Humanistic Judaism presents **The History & Culture of the Ashkenazic Jews** as part of its Scholar-In-Residence Weekend. Rabbi Sherwin Wine, the founder of Humanistic Judaism, will conduct the Shabbat Service and discuss “The Road to Germany” this evening at 7:30 p.m. He continues on Jan. 20 with “The Road to Poland, Hasidim and Yiddish.” The weekend concludes on Jan. 21 as Rabbi Wine discusses “The Holocaust, and the Road to America and Israel.” All events take place at Unity (3023 Proctor Rd., Sarasota). Cost: free/Shabbat service, \$45/weekend sessions, \$25/

one session. Call Arlene Pearlman (941.377.1003).

At 8:00 p.m., in honor of the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., Temple Emanu-El’s (151 McIntosh Rd., Sarasota) Social Action Committee presents a **Special Shabbat Service** featuring Bishop Henry Porter and his students of the Westcoast Center for Human Development. Dr. Porter will address the congregation and the school choir will present a program of songs. Free and open to the public. Call the Temple office (941.371.2788).

Chabad of Sarasota (7700 Beneva Rd., Sarasota) presents its **Chabad Preschool Friday Night Dinner** at 6:00 p.m. Families of children attending Chabad’s Samuel & Sarah Kaplan Preschool and prospective families will join together for a lovely Shabbat dinner. Cost: \$36/family. For further information and reservations, call Preschool Director Sara Steinmetz (941.925.0770).

Continued on page 20

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JEWISH HAPPENINGS

HAPPENINGS continued from page 19

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

Center Stage at the Flanzer JCC Branch of the Sarasota Family YMCA (580 McIntosh Rd., Sarasota) presents **Jap: Princesses of Comedy** at 8:00 p.m. and again tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. This hilarious, naughty romp, presented by four of today's top female comics, makes you plotz and kvell at the same time. From the "Bale-boostehs" of Second Avenue to the "Ball-breakers" of Park Avenue, this show – which is sponsored by the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation – is a crash course on the "Who's Who" of funny women. Cost: \$24/public, \$19/JCC-YMCA members. Call the Center Stage Box Office for reservations (941.378.5568, ext. 227).

Chavurah Ner Tamid (3817 40th Ave. W., Bradenton) presents a **Havdalah Service and Italian Dinner** at 6:00 p.m. Cost: \$12.50/adults, \$8.50/children. For more information, call the Chavurah (941.755.1231) or e-mail chavurahnertamid@hotmail.com.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Temple Beth Israel presents its **Temple Beth Israel 2007 Annual Gala**, themed "A Magical Evening." This event takes place at Michael's on East (1212 East Ave. S., Sarasota) at 7:00 p.m. This black-tie gala will feature magical entertainment and dancing, as well as delicious food and a fabulous auction. Cost: \$175/person. For further information, call Gayle Benator (941.383.3428).

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida presents speaker Lunelle Siegel as she discusses **Notable Jewish Confederates**. This event takes place at the Flanzer JCC/YMCA Branch (582 McIntosh Rd., Sarasota) at 1:00 p.m. Jews have been in this country since the 17th century. But did you know thousands of Jewish Americans served the Confederacy during the War of 1861-1865? Some were soldiers, others government officials – and one was a famous spy. Free and open to the public. Call Kim Sheintal (941.921.1433) for further information.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

Jewish Family & Children's Service presents its **Annual Grace Rosen Magill Memorial Lecture**, featuring Rabbi Rami Shapiro as he discusses "The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness." This event is presented under the auspices of the Jewish Healing Program, which is funded in part by the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation. Drawing from his own personal journey as well as from sacred practices of the world's major Eastern and Western faith traditions, Rabbi Shapiro provides the ingredients and inspiration needed to develop a personal strategy for embracing the world fearlessly, honestly and with compassion. Takes place at Florida Studio Theatre (1241 N. Palm Ave., Sarasota) at 7:00 p.m. Cost: \$25/open seating, lecture and dessert reception; \$100/reserved seating, patron reception, signed copy of book, lecture and dessert reception. RSVP required by Jan. 15; call JFCS (941.366.2224).



Rabbi Rami Shapiro

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

The Brandeis University National Women's Committee presents a **Historic Asolo Theatre Matinee** at the Asolo Theatre (5555 N. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota) at 2:00 p.m. See the recently restored Asolo Theatre and listen to David Howard, versatile Asolo Theatre performer, in "Nobody Don't Like Yogi," a humorous and poignant one-act play. Cost: \$42. For further information, call event chair Caryl Magnus (941.378.5055).

To submit your event to Jewish Happenings, please fax to 941.378.2947, attn. "Jewish Happenings" or e-mail happenings@smjf.org. Events must be submitted on a Jewish Happenings form; call 371.4546, ext. 116 to receive a copy or for deadlines.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

The American Jewish Committee, West Coast Florida Chapter presents its **2007 Human Relations Award Dinner & Centennial Celebration** at Michael's on East (1212 East Ave. S., Sarasota) at 6:00 p.m. This year's honoree is Betty Schoenbaum, in recognition of her exemplary work in human rights activism locally, nationally and internationally, and for her humanitarian idealism, pragmatic engagement and social leadership. This year we will also be celebrating the Centennial anniversary of the AJC and its century of leadership in the work of human rights, democracy and the rule of law and the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security. Cost: \$250/person; sponsorship opportunities are also available. Call AJC (941.365.4955) for further information.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

After the 7:00 p.m. Friday services, Chabad of Sarasota (7700 Beneva Rd., Sarasota) presents a **South African Style Friday Night Dinner**. Enjoy a Shabbat dinner with an assortment of South African foods, catered by Vivien Kalvaria. Cost: \$15/adults, \$12/children ages 5-12. Advance reservations and payment required. Call the Chabad office (941.925.0770).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

Center Stage at the Flanzer JCC Branch of the Sarasota Family YMCA (580 McIntosh Rd., Sarasota) presents **Blue Collar Bay** at 8:00 p.m. Performed and co-authored by Stephen Axelrod, "Blue Collar Bay" is a polished, hard-edged performance about a self-styled "tough-Jew," a third-generation delivery truck driver for a familiar New York tabloid. A high-school dropout and former Marine, Axelrod lands on Wall Street where he becomes a high-rolling broker with a seat on the Exchange, making more money in one month than his father ever did in one year – pitting him against his father in emotional combat. Tickets: \$20/public, \$17/JCC-YMCA members. Call the Center Stage Box Office for reservations (941.378.5568, ext. 227).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

The JFCS Ambassadors Steering Committee presents an outreach program, **The Perils & Pleasures of Adult Step-Families**. This interactive discussion, which takes place at Temple Sinai (4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota) at 3:30 p.m., explores what happens when parents with adult children enter into new life partnerships. The event will include discussions of the "five furies": fear of abandonment and isolation; fidelity to family; favoritism; finance; and focus on self to the exclusion of others. Moderator: Marcy Stern, Ed.D, LMHC. Free and open to the public; no RSVP required. For further information, call Johnette Cappadona (941.366.2224).

The SaraMana Chapter of Women's American ORT presents its **Big Book Sale** at Publix Supermarket (University Parkway and Market St., Lakewood Ranch) from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Paperback and hardback books for children and adults will be available. Proceeds will go toward purchasing new books for the children at the Lawton Chiles Family Health Care Center in Bradenton. Anyone who would like to donate prior to the sale can drop off books at AJ Nails (9130 Town Center Drive, Lakewood Ranch). For further information, call Robin DiSabatino (941.685.5368).

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

Jewish Family & Children's Service (2688 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota) presents a **Volunteer Forum** from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Participants will get a legislative briefing from local elected officials on what we can expect in 2007. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP required by Jan. 25; call Caroline Zucker (941.366.2224).

Temple Beth Israel Women present the **Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon** at the Longboat Key Club (301 Gulf of Mexico Dr., Longboat Key) at 12:00 p.m. Proceeds support programming to enhance Jewish life on Longboat Key and in Sarasota. Cost: \$36. For further information, call Anita DeVine (941.365.8794).

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From the bimah

Does G-d exist?



By Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz
Chabad of Sarasota

Amongst people in general there is a frequently discussed issue: the existence of G-d. Some say that they do not believe in G-d and are searching

for logical support and reasoning that validates the existence of G-d.

As with all matters in life, the Torah helps us to resolve this issue. A recent Torah portion led us to the book of Exodus – we studied the numerous details regarding the discussions between Moses and Pharaoh as Moses beseeches Pharaoh to allow the Hebrews to have their freedom, and the particulars relating to the 10 plagues inflicted upon Pharaoh for denying freedom to the Hebrews.

When studying the text, we see that during the first three plagues Moses turns to Pharaoh and says: “G-d, the Lord of the Hebrews has sent me to ask you to let my people go,” to which Pharaoh responds, “Who is G-d?” He does not believe in G-d.

To prove that G-d rules the world, Moses’ rod turned into a snake. Later the Nile River turned into blood, followed by the plague of the frogs that were literally all over the land. Yet, in spite of all these amazing stunts, Pharaoh is unimpressed with Moses’ G-d, as he demonstrates that his magicians can easily perform these stunts as well.

However, when the plague of lice was brought upon the Egyptians, the magicians told Pharaoh, “It must be G-d’s finger.” Pharaoh, on the contrary was not convinced. From that point on, Moses did not persuade Pharaoh to believe in G-d. Instead, he just demanded that Pharaoh let the Hebrews go. In other words, Moses wanted Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go free even if he did not believe in G-d. As Pharaoh continued to refuse, we read in the Torah about the seven remaining plagues with which he and his people were afflicted.

It is not incumbent upon us to convince people to believe in G-d, as we just studied an example from the book of Exodus. The purpose of Moses continuously going to speak to Pharaoh was not to have him acknowledge his belief in G-d but rather to request that Pharaoh grant the Hebrews

their freedom. To persuade Pharaoh to believe in G-d was not on the “agenda.” Moses simply said: “Let my people go.”

In my experience, the question of belief in G-d usually precedes the following question: “How is it that in the Torah we read of so many wondrous miracles that G-d performed to help and save the Jewish people, yet today we do not merit to behold any miracle at all? If G-d were to perform miracles as in the past, perhaps belief in G-d would be universally accepted and comprehended by all without doubts or controversy.”

The answer to this query is found in the story of Moses and Pharaoh. Although Moses performed many miracles of G-d, Pharaoh always found a rational explanation and continued to deny belief in G-d. When

When Pharaoh was told by his own magicians that there was a G-d who was striking him, he reasoned that perhaps Moses was a “Ph.D. Magician,” who was greater than his own magicians, but continued to surmise that there was no G-d.

Maybe G-d does perform great miracles today like in the past; however, just as in the story of Pharaoh, we have a tendency to attribute the miracles to nature or to coincidences.

Each and every one of us is an integral part of the Jewish nation and together we share the obligation to motivate one another to follow in the footsteps of Torah and Mitzvot. Concerning belief in G-d, it is necessary to understand that once an individual advances in his observance of Jewish traditions, it will ultimately eliminate any skepticism and uncertainty regarding belief in G-d, and will help people to fully realize that G-d’s finger is in each and every step in their lives.

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TEMPLE NEWS

Temple Sinai to honor Paula and Arnold Spitalny

For their efforts on behalf of Temple Sinai, Paula and Arnold Spitalny will be honored at the temple's annual fundraising gala Feb. 10, 2007. This event takes place at Temple Sinai (4631 S. Lockwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota) at 6:00 p.m.

It may come as a great surprise to those who know Paula and Arnold that when the couple moved to Sarasota in 1994, they had never before been members of a temple. In Stamford, Conn., Paula had been an active member of Hadassah and, when she arrived here, she quickly joined the local chapter. When Temple Sinai's Rabbi Geoffrey Hunting spoke at a Hadassah meeting, Paula was so impressed that she and Arnold immediately joined the temple.

Paula became immersed in temple life, beginning with Hebrew studies, which led to her Bat Mitzvah in 1998. Her service within the synagogue included holding the position of vice president of education, prior to her presidency in 2002. When Paula began her term in office, she took the reins on the monumental project already underway to build a new sanctuary and state-of-the-art campus. She oversaw the entire effort, including planning and fundraising as a key member of the Capital Campaign Executive Board.

Paula completed her two-year term in May of 2004 and today continues as an invaluable member of the Board of Trustees. She currently serves on the Ritual Committee and was responsible for the task of coordinating the High Holiday services. Paula has given so much to the synagogue but, in her inimitable fashion, remarks, "Thank you, Temple Sinai, for enriching my life."

According to Gwen Baseman, who succeeded Paula as president of the congregation, "Paula couldn't have done what she has for Temple Sinai and the Jewish community if Arnold had not supported her in everything she has taken on. When they retired and moved to The Landings, Arnold left his engineering career behind ... He's always at Paula's side at the temple, participating in everything and cheering her on."

As a couple, the Spitalnys have nurtured

each other and, in turn, nurtured each community in which they have lived. Together, Paula and Arnold Spitalny have made immeasurable, unforgettable contributions to the Jewish community in Sarasota.

In addition to her temple work, Paula is currently treasurer of the local chapter of the Brandeis University National Women's Committee and serves on the board of the Sarasota Ballet Association. She has served as president of the Synagogue Council of Sarasota and edited the Hadassah newsletter. In addition to their civic activities, the Spitalnys love to travel and have visited Israel five times. They traveled to Australia and New Zealand in December.

Because the Spitalnys love to travel, the event to honor them will be a "cruise." Plan to board the "T.S.S. Spitalny" decked out in casual elegance fit for a Caribbean cruise. There will be dining and dancing, as well as live and silent auctions.

Cost: \$118/person. For more information or for tickets, call the Temple office (941.924.1802).



Arnold and Paula Spitalny

Community Shaliach works with Emanu-El students

Community Shaliach Eddie Fraiman has been working with Temple Emanu-El, as well as the other area synagogues, since his arrival late this summer. Fraiman teaches the children conversational Hebrew and enlightens them as to what Israel is really like.

"From the moment that Eddie stepped foot into my office, I knew that the children of Temple Emanu-El were in for a great treat," said Sabrina Silverberg, director of Youth Education at Temple Emanu-El. "He walked in with a bounce in his step and a big smile on his face and said, 'Anything you want me to do with the kids, I will do!'"

"Whether he is teaching the students to order falafel in Hebrew or impressing upon them the importance of the land of

Israel for the Jewish people, he does so with enthusiasm, energy and creativity," Silverberg continued. "Through the last few months Eddie has taught the children of Temple Emanu-El many lessons. But, most importantly, he has served as an exceptional role model for our Jewish children, representing Israel and Israelis in the best possible way."

The children are learning, in fun ways and through Israel experiences, that Judaism is being practiced in a very modern, unique and, in their words, "cool" way these days in the Jewish State of Israel.

Silverberg concluded, "To Eddie and to the Federation for bringing him to us, Temple Emanu-El would like to say 'Todah rabah and kol hakavod!'"



Community Shaliach Eddie Fraiman (back) and students from the Temple Emanu-El religious school



Club Sholom TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

Affiliated With The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism



Sunday, January 28, 2007

Michael's on East

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres 6:00 pm

Dinner 7:00 pm

2007 Distinguished Honorees

Dr. Michael and Wendy Katz

Dr. Guillermo and Flora Oynick

Mr. Sandy Salzman and Ms. Sue Rosin

Mr. Lionel and Marian Zahler

Cost

Silver Supporter \$95/person - Gold Sponsor \$125/person

Platinum Benefactor \$150/person

Showtime Entertainment

Operatic Soprano - Katie Saunders

Professional Ballroom Dancers - Elizabeth & Maxim

The Comedy of Bruce Smirnoff

Black Tie Optional

Please RSVP by January 20, 2007. For more information, please contact
Dory Bishop at Temple Beth Sholom: (941) 955-8121



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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Brandeis presents annual Showcase

The hubbub was clearly a happy one as long-time and prospective members of Brandeis University National Women's Committee mingled at the annual Showcase event, which highlighted a veritable smorgasbord of upcoming events, community service and study groups – the distinctive heart of BUNWC offerings.

While enjoying a mini-breakfast, co-chairs Norma Dryce and Sunny Brownrout shared the audience's enthusiasm as guest speaker, Michael Donald Edwards, regaled his audience with a behind-the-scenes look at the Asolo Theatre's upcoming season. Versatile Asolo actor David Howard presented a brief scene from "Nobody Don't Like Yogi," which is scheduled for the newly-restored Asolo Theatre.



David Howard as 'Yogi'



Chapter vice president Esther Rose addresses the crowd



Event co-chairs Sunny Brownrout and Norma Dryce, and chapter vice president Caryl Magnus



Nancy Miller (left) and chapter VP Ann Goldstein



Barbara Berkowitz (left) and Janet Stollman



(From l-r) Barbara Berkowitz, Harriet Polejes and chapter vice president Lenore Weintraub

Chabad event explores relationships, Kabbalah

On Nov. 12, Rabbi Yossi Jacobson entertained guests with an inspirational lecture titled "The Art of Love, Marriage and Relationships in the Kabbalah." The dynamic Rabbi alluded to the saga of Jacob's marriage to Leah and Rachel in the Bible and showed its relevance to modern-day marriages. Sponsors of this informative event were treated to a private cocktail reception with Rabbi Jacobson. They enjoyed scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and drinks against the backdrop of soft piano music and romantic lighting.

This event was underwritten by the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation.



Dr. Steve Shapiro, an event sponsor, converses with Rabbi Jacobson



Jill Schein (left) and Chanie Bukiet at the sponsors' reception



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This will be a fun day from 9 to 6, & proceeds will benefit our ORT Schools.
Get on Board!



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Kobernick House celebrates 13th anniversary

By Sandy Gladstone

On Nov. 15, residents at Kobernick House enjoyed a festive night celebrating the 13th anniversary of a truly amazing community. Special tribute was paid to the following residents who moved in the year that Kobernick House opened its doors: Gertrude Ehre, Warren Munroe, Lily Wohlin, Selma Goldblatt, Pearl Cutler, Richard Thiel, Regena Rosenblum, Fay Watkins, Toby Dorman and Esther Schwab.

Esther Schwab a 12-year resident, said, "Kobernick has been wonderful. I shared 7 years with a man I met at Kobernick and, hopefully, I will be blessed with many more years [here]." Fay Watkins describes falling in love with Kobernick when she moved to Sarasota in April 1994. At the age of 101, Fay walks the halls without assistance and her only complaint is that the "halls have gotten longer."

The anniversary party began at 4:00 p.m. when residents enjoyed an open bar where they could order their favorite cocktail. A marvelous string quartet played while servers circulated the Rotunda with plates of hot hors d'oeuvres. After lots of laughter and special remembrances, the residents were looking forward to a special meal. Executive Chef Ignacio Suarez outdid

himself with special appetizers, gourmet soup and entrees like roast duck with an apple cinnamon glaze and poached pears, veal roulade stuffed with wild mushrooms, roasted vegetables and topped with veal au jus, and ruby red trout topped with roasted

pine nuts, tomato, garlic and cilantro. A special dessert prepared by well-known pastry chef, Roxana Duren, was too decadent to describe.

New residents wanted to know if Kobernick could do this every month.



(From l-r) Josephine Douglass and Gissie Ziskand



(From l-r) Hy Meltz, Eva Levy, and Gladys and Nathan Novick

Temple Beth Sholom

Programs & Events

All are welcome! Come join us!

January 2007

ONGOING PROGRAMS:

Daily Morning Minyan
Sunday-Friday, 8:00AM

Shabbat Services
Fridays, 7:45PM • Saturdays, 9:00AM

Rabbi Mishkin's Tisch
Tuesdays, 8:45AM

Rabbi Goldsmith's Scholars Circle
Tuesdays, 9:45AM

Hazzan Nathanson's Torah Cantillation
Wednesdays, 10:00AM

Torah Study Club
1st & 4th Tuesdays, 5:30PM
Thursdays, 9:00AM • Saturdays, 8:45AM

Paver Religious School
Sundays, 9:00AM • Tuesdays, 4:30PM

SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

Wednesday, January 3

Book Review: "Born to Kvetch" by Max Wex • 1:15PM (Media Center)

Thursday, January 4

Adult Ed: King David Series • 1:00PM

Friday, January 5

Tot Shabbat • 6:30PM

Wednesday, January 10

Adult Ed: "Jewish Art" w/ Rabbi Matthew Berkowitz • 1:00PM
Sisterhood Meeting • 7:00PM

Thursday, January 11

Adult Ed: King David Series • 1:00PM
Lecture w/ Mark Rosenblum • 7:30PM

Sunday, January 14

Adult Ed: "Jewish Icons: Steven Spielberg" w/ Sid Krupkin • 1:00PM

Tuesday, January 16

Adult Ed: Hebrew Prayer • 11:00AM
(Runs 8 weeks)

Wednesday, January 17

Library Film Series: "Danzig 1938" w/ Jerry Beck • 1:15PM (Media Center)

Thursday, January 18

Adult Ed: Talmud for Beginners • 1:00PM

Sunday, January 21

Mitzvah Day on TBS Campus • 9:00AM

Wednesday, January 24

Sisterhood Card Party • 11:00AM

Sunday, January 28

GFA Open House • 12:00PM
Club Sholom @ Michael's on East • 6:00PM

Tuesday, January 30

GFA Open House • 8:30AM

Temple Beth Sholom

Home of:

The Martin & Mildred Paver Religious School – 552-2780

J. L. Wiesner Early Childhood Learning Center – 954-2027

Goldie Feldman Academy (Grades K-8) – 552-2770

1050 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota, 34237

For information, call

941.955.8121 or e-mail

info@templebethsholomfl.org

Visit www.templebethsholomfl.org

Chabad preschoolers, parents enjoy Thanksgiving lunch

In preparation for the Thanksgiving lunch held at Chabad's Kaplan Preschool, children enjoyed making the bread, the sweet mashed potatoes and the muffins. Turkey centerpieces and decorations and feathered crowns kept the children busy and excited as they prepared for this special day. Highlighting the Thanksgiving lunch, the teachers enumerated why they were thankful for each student. As an expression of thanks for their good health, preschool families were encouraged to bring in a toy for the "Toys for a Smile" toy drive, which were given to children who are ill. For further information about Chabad's Kaplan Preschool, please call Preschool Director Sara Steinmetz (941.925.0770).



Nati Mizrahi and Chaim Meir Bukiet with turkey feather crowns

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Family education programs at Temple Beth Sholom

On Oct. 29, The Martin & Mildred Paver Religious School of Temple Beth Sholom kicked off the first of a series of four family education programs slated for this year. The programs share a common theme as its primary focus: tolerance and diversity. In this first session, students, parents and teachers of the kindergarten and first grade gathered in the temple's social hall, where they were able to examine a collection of posters from the Southern Poverty Law Center as they enjoyed their morning coffee and bagels. The posters highlighted words and images consistent with the universal themes of the program.

The program, which included musical selections and film segments to highlight the theme, ended with a live rendition of Peter Yarrow's lovely song, "Don't Laugh at Me." The participants left with a fresh sensitivity for the diverse peoples of the world.

The family education sessions continue through February.



Sid Krupkin and Richelle and Michelle Miller