



February 2020  
Shevat/Adar 5780

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# THE SCHRIER

**THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF WEST PASCO**  
**Home of Congregation Beth Tefillah**

## Shabbat Dinner

**Please join us on Friday, February 7, 2020  
at 6:30 pm for our next communal Shabbat dinner  
where we will celebrate Tu'Bishvat.**

**We will begin with Shabbat services and then proceed to a  
delicious Shabbat meal. The cost is only:**

**Members:**

**\$ 15.00 per person for adults (age 13 and over)  
Children under the age of 13 are free**

**Non-Members:**

**\$ 20.00 per person for adults (age 13 and over)  
Children under the age of 13 are free**

**We must have your RSVP and money into the  
office by February 2, 2020**



### FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Friday, 2/7 6:30 pm  
Shabbat Services  
and Dinner
- \* Monday, 2/10  
Tu'Bishvat
- \* Monday, 2/10 7 pm  
JCC Board Meeting
- \* Sunday, 2/16 3 pm  
Dine Out Club
- \* Monday, 2/17  
Presidents' Day
- \* Tuesday/Wednesday  
2/25-2/26 Rosh  
Chodesh

**Shabbat Services**  
**Conducted by Ron Becker & Elliot Shapiro**

**EVERY FRIDAY EVENING at 7:30 PM**

**EVERY SATURDAY MORNING at 9:30 AM**

**Alan Goldberg, Rabbi Emeritus**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**-by Eileen Hochstadt

A very important piece I just read in The Times of Israel by Rabbi Rick Jacobs (president of the Union for Reform Judaism, the congregational arm of the Reform Jewish Movement in North America) as he addressed the Solidarity Rally in Brooklyn NY on 1/5/2020:

“It is irrefutable: We are undergoing an explosion of hate in the United States, which includes a dramatic increase in violent anti-Semitic attacks. And our Jewish community must cease being distracted by the debate about whether the uptick in anti-Semitism is from the right or the left or the center or anywhere in between. Wherever it is from, wherever we find it, we must stand united and strong against it. Above all, we must never lose sight that an attack on any of us is an attack on all of us. When it is unsafe for traditional Jews to walk around Brooklyn or go to the grocery store in Jersey City, or celebrate Hanukkah at home in Monsey, that is a crisis for everyone in every part of our Jewish community. Here are three of the least helpful and most dangerous responses, which undercut the very actions and strategies necessary to delegitimize hate speech and to de-escalate and eliminate hate crimes. Here, too, are more constructive approaches we must take.

### **1. Hate speech coming from the top**

To politicians and communal leaders who engage themselves in hate speech: You can't foment hatred and discrimination in many forms while later claiming to be combating anti-Semitism. Hate speech by our leaders emboldens those who engage in hate crimes. To signal that it is OK to denigrate or demonize those who are “other” – be they immigrants, Muslims, gays, women, People of Color or Jews – is to signal to haters that they have the stamp of authority to act against their targets.

Let's be clear: The use by political leaders of anti-Semitic tropes, including that of American Jews having dual loyalty to the US and Israel, endangers us all – and to truly keep American Jewry safe, elected officials must not use Jews or anti-Semitism as political fodder.

### **2. Blaming all African Americans**

To those who blame the Black community in general or anti-Semitic attacks perpetrated by Black individuals, we say: This is reprehensible. This ignores the Black leaders and communities across America who have stood with us, over and over again, to denounce such anti-Semitic attacks (as we have stood with them to denounce hate crimes against Blacks, which still far outnumber even those against Jews in America). To cast the sins of the few on an entire people is blatant racism, not its antidote.

### **3. Prejudice against those in our own community**

I was immensely proud to march in NYC on Sunday with a remarkably wide cross-section of the Jewish community and its allies. Diversity is a source of great strength. In this spirit, we must be cognizant, as well, of the growing number of Jews of Color in our community who face not only anti-Semitism but also the challenges and dangers that all People of Color disproportionately face.

We must recognize, too, that those challenges can be exacerbated by our own prejudices in our own Jewish institutions. We hear reports of far too many instances in which increased security leads to Jews of Color being regarded as impostors or potential criminals. This discrimination against our fellow Jews must end.

During these times when our Jewish community feels vulnerable, there is a natural inclination to want to hunker down in our buildings, separating ourselves from the wider community. But if we learned anything from Pittsburgh and Poway, it's that to be safe, we need strong bonds – not just among Jews everywhere, but with other marginalized groups who are likely to find themselves victims of hate crimes, as well as with civil society, political leaders, law enforcement, and, especially, with other faith communities.

Anti-Semitism has been around for millennia, but the kind of interfaith solidarity we have helped create throughout the past three generations is new. Previously, when Jews were victims of murderous anti-Semitic attacks, it was rare for anyone to stand with us or around us. Today, we show up for each other as a normal part of our civic lives and religious responsibility, setting an inspiring example of what sacred ally ship is all about. By working together so closely to confront these explosions of hate crimes and hate rhetoric, we model our vision for America. Crucially, unlike earlier periods in Jewish history, today's anti-Semitism is different in America in that it is not explicitly government-sanctioned. Today, though some responses have been sluggish and inadequate, anti-Semitic incidents in New York and New Jersey have been denounced by elected officials at all levels. Our leaders have promised to devote resources toward combatting anti-Semitic attitudes and protecting Jewish institutions and have stood in solidarity with the Jewish community. We will hold these leaders accountable – but let us be clear about the importance of supportive voices from across the political spectrum. At a time when our nation feels so divided, it was a breath of fresh air to see on Sunday such diversity in the multitude of those walking arm-in-arm to confront anti-Semitism. Such a bipartisan, multiracial, multiethnic, multireligious coalition of decency, which was at the core of every social advance in 20th century America, is desperately needed today to confront the urgent challenges we face at home and abroad. And just perhaps, the trust and common purpose evoked by our efforts to confront anti-Semitism — and hate crimes more generally — will help redirect America to make real the goals of justice and equality in which a diverse Jewish community will continue to flourish for centuries to come.

## A Message from Ron Becker

Dear friends,

We're off to active and fulfilling start to the new year. We began with a very successful marathon bingo session (thanks to all the volunteers who made it possible) and on the first two Shabbat mornings of January, we celebrated wedding anniversaries, birthdays, and a milestone Bar Mitzvah anniversary. Congratulations to Mark Land on reaching this milestone and chanting his Bar Mitzvah Haftorah and a meaningful and moving revised speech as relevant today as it was 23 years ago. Coming full circle, next year we will be celebrating the Bat Mitzvah of Mark's daughter Chloe. Thanks to the Land family for sharing these Simchas with us.

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed another dine-out event where we ate a delicious meal and got to meet our congregants and friends in a social setting. On January 20<sup>th</sup> to commemorate Martin Luther King Day, we once again participated in the march down Pine Hill Road in Port Richey to the historic Booker T. Washington Schoolhouse where there were presentations by local students, young adults, and religious and community leaders. Earlier that week, our synagogue board met with the FBI agent responsible for hate crimes in our region and her counterpart in the Pasco County Sheriff's office. We learned about their work in helping to protect religious communities and will remain vigilant and continue to upgrade our security practices. That said, it is critical to end criminal acts of bigotry, hatred, and violence not just by being vigilant. We cannot be silent in the face of prejudice. We must continue to work with all communities of faith through educational events, vigils, and joint social activities so that we can band together and speak out against the horrible acts that plague our nation and our world. We have held joint activities with participation of members of all faiths, persuasions, and orientations and will always continue to do so.

In addition to our social activities, the month of January was filled with acts of kindness among our members and friends. Unfortunately, there has been illness and even death in our community and in the Jewish community as a whole. I am so proud and grateful to be part of a caring congregation where our members visit and aid the sick and provide minyanim during the difficult times of funerals and Shiva minyanim. Let's pray that there won't be much call for this in the months ahead, but it is inevitable and volunteering to help in difficult times and circumstances is a hallmark of a holy society.

Looking ahead to February, we have much to be thankful for and much to anticipate. We start with our Tu B'Shevat themed community Shabbat dinner on February 7<sup>th</sup>, a time to celebrate the environment in Israel and throughout the world and think about how we might as individuals and a community help to protect our earth as we are commanded to in the second paragraph of the Shema prayer and throughout our Torah. Then for the first time in years, our synagogue will host a wedding on the night of February 15<sup>th</sup>. We hope and will strive to make this the first of many wonderful Simchas in our religious home. Mazel Tov to Stephanie and Esteban and their proud parents.

February also includes the commemoration of President's Day where we remember how freedom is built into our country's founding and its constitution and laws, many of which are based on the Mitzvot found in our scripture. It might be chilly outside, but our spiritual home remains and warm and inviting refuge which I hope you will take full advantage of during the coming month and year.

Ron Becker, Spiritual Leader

## DATES TO REMEMBER

2/1 **Religious Services 9:30 a  
Bingo 5 pm**  
2/2 **Adult Education 11 am**  
2/6 **Bingo 10 am**  
2/7 **Shabbat Dinner and  
Services 6:30 pm**  
2/8 **Religious Services 9:30 a  
Bingo 5 pm**  
2/9 **Religious School 10 am  
Boutique 10 am-12 nn  
Adult Education 11 am**  
2/10 **JCC Board Meeting 7 pm**  
2/10 **Tu'Bishvat**  
2/13 **Bingo 10 am**  
2/14 **Religious Services 7:30 p**

2/15 **Religious Services 9:30 a  
Bingo 5 pm**  
2/16 **Adult Education 11 am  
Dine Out Club 3 pm**  
2/17 **President's Day**  
2/20 **Bingo 10 am**  
2/21 **Religious Services 7:30 p**  
2/22 **Religious Services 9:30 a  
Bingo 5pm**  
2/23 **Religious School 10 am  
Boutique 10 am-12 nn  
Adult Education 11 am**  
2/27 **Bingo 10 am**  
2/28 **Religious Services 7:30 p**  
2/29 **Religious Services 9:30 a  
Bingo 5pm**

## Candle Lighting Times



<b>February 7</b>	<b>5:57 pm</b>
<b>February 14</b>	<b>6:02 pm</b>
<b>February 21</b>	<b>6:07 pm</b>
<b>February 28</b>	<b>6:12pm</b>

## DINE OUT CLUB

Join your JCC friends for an informal meal at a local restaurant. Enjoy good food, good company and good conversation.

Our next Dine Out Club will meet at:

**Koizi Japanese Restaurant**

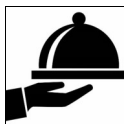
**4190 Little Road**

**New Port Richey**

**(in the Grand Trinity Plaza)**

**on February 16th at 3 pm.**

**Please RSVP to Barbara J.**



*A Friendly Reminder*

**Passover will be here before you know it...**

Please visit the JCC's web page at:

**[jccwestpasco.com](http://jccwestpasco.com)**

(our new and easy-to-remember site!)

Find us on Facebook, too  
(and don't forget to 'like us').

Visit Our  
Website

## In honor of Presidents' Day, some Presidential quotes

Honesty is the first chapter of the book of wisdom.

**-Thomas Jefferson**

Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first. **-Ronald Reagan**

Focusing your life solely on making a buck shows a certain poverty of ambition. It asks too little of yourself. ... Because it's only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you realize your true potential. **-Barack Obama**

There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America. **-Bill Clinton**

Think about every problem, every challenge, we face. The solution to each starts with education. **-George H.W. Bush**

It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit. **-Harry S. Truman**

Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him. **-Dwight D. Eisenhower**

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. **-John F. Kennedy**

## Save the date!

### Monday, March 9, 2020:

Join us for a **Purim** ice cream social at 6:30 pm. Then after loading up on all those carbs, we'll enter the Sanctuary and hear the reading of the Megillah and burn off those carbs by hollering and stomping out the vile name of you-know-who. Costumes are welcomed and encouraged! Bring your kids, bring your friends, bring your friends' kids!



### Sunday, March 29, 2020:

Join us at 2:30 pm for the **Spring Fling Concert**. More information will be available in the March Schrier.

### Thursday, April 9, 2020

It's not too soon to think about **Pesach!** The JCC will host the second Seder on Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. More information will be available in the next Schrier but please be aware that the RSVP date will be March 26th.

# February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Bo</i> Bingo 5 pm
2 Adult Education 11 a	3	4	5	6 10 am BINGO	7 88 Shabbat Dinner & Services 6:30 pm	8 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Beshalach</i> Bingo 5 pm
9 Religious School 10a Boutique 10am-12nn Adult Education 11 a	10 JCC Board Meeting 7 pm  Tu'Bishvat	11	12	13 10 am BINGO	14 88 Religious Services 7:30 pm	15 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Yitro</i> Bingo 5 pm
16 Adult Education 11a Dine Out Club 3pm Koizi Japanese Rest.	17  President's Day	18	19	20 10 am BINGO	21 88 Religious Services 7:30 pm	22 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Mishpatim</i> Bingo 5 pm
23 Religious School 10a Boutique 10am-12nn Adult Education 11 a	24	25 Rosh Chodesh	26 Rosh Chodesh	27 10am BINGO	28 88 Religious Services 7:30 pm	29 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Terumah</i> Bingo 5 pm