

*November/December
2023
Cheshvan/Kislev/Tevet
5784*

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THE SCHRIER

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

Holiday Happenings

Please join us on Friday, December 8 at 6:30pm for Shabbat services and dinner to celebrate Hanukkah. We will have corned beef, pastrami (kosher, of course), rye bread, coleslaw (it's sort of a salad) and the star of the meal, LATKES! All of this for only \$25.00 for members \$30.00 for non-members.

Please have your RSVP and money into the office by Thursday, November 30th.

Ron and Chris will host members and friends at the annual Cotee River Boat Parade. As of the publication of this issue, the date and time have not been set. As details become available, they will be disseminated to the membership via email.

We will visit various assisted living facilities to celebrate Hanukkah on December 10th. The time and locations have not yet been set. Details to follow.

NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- * Sunday, 11/5 Change to Standard Time
- * Thursday, 11/9 Kristallnacht Remembrance
- * Saturday, 11/11 Veterans Day
- * Monday, 11/13 7 pm JCC Board Meeting
- * Thursday, 11/23 Thanksgiving (office closed)
- * Thursday, 12/7 First candle of Hanukkah
- * Monday, 12/11 7 pm JCC Board Meeting
- * Sunday, 12/31 New Years Eve

Shabbat Services
Conducted by Ron Becker, Perry Werbel
and 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

Seven Wonders of Jewish History Continued from the September-October Schrier

Shared with us by Rabbi Asher Resnick and Motty Berger, from Aish.Com

WONDER #3: ANTI-SEMITISM

We have survived thousands of years of turbulent exile. This was predicted beforehand!

"Among those nations, you shall find no respite, no rest for your foot, for there the Lord will give you an anguished heart and wasted eyes and a dismayed spirit. You will live in constant suspense, and stand in dread, both by day and by night, never sure of your existence." (Devarim. 28:65-67)

We mentioned the strange fact that when every other nation tries to assimilate, the persecution stops. When the Jews try to assimilate, the persecution intensifies. This was predicted beforehand!

"For that which comes into your mind shall never be. That which you say, 'Let us be like the nations, like the families of other lands, serving wood and stone.' 'As I live,' says G-d, 'with a mighty hand and outstretched arm and with outpoured fury, I shall be king over you.'" (Yechezkel 20:32-34)

WONDER #4: FEW IN NUMBER

We mentioned our lack of numbers. This was predicted beforehand! *"You will remain few in number, whereas you could have become as numerous as the stars of the heavens, because you would not obey the voice of G-d, your Lord."* (Devarim 28:62)

WONDER #5: A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS

Those same nations that persecuted and denigrated us will come to us for wisdom and guidance? This was predicted beforehand!

"Thus says the Lord of Hosts: In those days, [the time that Messiah will come] ten men of every nationality, speaking different languages, shall take hold of every Jew by the corner of his garment, and say, let us go with you, for we have heard that G-d is with you." (Zecharia 8:23)

WONDER #6: THE INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND THE LAND OF ISRAEL

Could anyone have known that the land would produce only for the Jewish people? This was predicted beforehand! *"And I shall make the land a desolate waste so that its proud strength will cease, and the mountains of Israel shall be desolate that no one will cross them. Then they shall know that I am G-d when I make the land a desolate waste because of all the abominable things they have done."* (Yechezkel 33:28-29) From where would the prophets get this strange agricultural expertise? Is there any other country on earth whose land responds to only one nation?

WONDER #7: THE MIRACULOUS RETURN OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO THEIR HOMELAND

We, today, are witnesses to the miraculous return of the Jewish people to their homeland. This was predicted beforehand! *"Behold, I will raise my hand to the nations and my banner to the peoples, and they shall bring your sons in their arms and your daughters on their shoulders."* (Yeshaya 49:22).

Not only are these seven wonders so paradoxical, so outside the pale of logic, but each one was clearly predicted in the Torah!

Continued on page 4

We Salute Our Veterans

Veterans Day, November 11, 2023

"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



Please visit the JCC's web page at:

jccwestpasco.com

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

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

Visit Our
Website

A Message From Ron Becker

Dear friends, after a wonderful, happy, and meaningful holiday season, we were hit with the most tragic news possible, that Israel was under a brutal attack from Hamas and that all-out war is imminent. We received the first inkling as we left home for our Shabbat/Shmini Atzeret morning service and by the time we returned home from celebrating Simchat Torah, we were hit with the full reality of the situation. Nearly all of us have relatives and friends in Israel. Most of ours are currently safe, but one has been hit with tragedy. Residing in a small community a few kilometers from Gaza, my cousin's nephew and niece were not spared. During the attack, the niece and their two children sheltered in their community's "safe room". The terrorists were unable to shoot open the heavy door, so they set fire to the building. The niece and their two young children were miraculously rescued and now sheltering under the protection of the Israel Defense Force installation nearby. However, the nephew who had been outside is now missing in action. His cell phone was found in the road and he is feared either captured and now a hostage in Gaza, or killed. This story or one like it is being repeated over and over and the carnage and potential future carnage for military and civilians is unthinkable. It brought me back to almost exactly 50 years ago when Chris and I were spending our first Yom Kippur together at our family synagogue in New Jersey when we heard the tragic news of attacks that launched the Yom Kippur War. We can only hope and pray and help fund those who are sending aid to Israel. In our region, you can donate through the Jewish Federation of Florida's Gulf Coast at their website: <https://www.jewishgulfcoast.org/> or by sending a check to the Jewish Federation of Florida's Gulf Coast, 13191 Starkey Rd, Suite 8, Largo, FL 33773. In the meantime, we have participated in the community prayer vigil at Temple Beth David in Spring Hill and will likely have numerous information/prayer sessions throughout this uncertain period. Throughout, we must remember that the overwhelming majority of people on all sides of the borders here and at all of the "hot spots" of the globe only want to live in peace with their families. In our region, we are supported by and we support the rights of all religions to prosper and live in peace.

While this is happening in Eretz Yisrael, we still have an obligation to serve those who are needy in our own community and we will once again be volunteering to distribute food, clothing, toys, and other necessities at Metropolitan Ministries during the November/December holiday season. We will have what we hope will be a large contingent of JCC congregants at the holiday tent in Trinity for the midday shift on November 21 and December 21. Even if you can't make it on those days, there are many others available. Please let me know if you can volunteer!

Continued on page 4

DATES TO REMEMBER

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------------|-------|----------------------------|
| 11/3 | Religious Services 7:30 pm | 12/4 | Bingo 11 am |
| 11/4 | Religious Services 9:30 am | 12/7 | 1st Hanukkah candle |
| | Bingo 5 pm | 12/8 | Religious Services/Dinner |
| 11/5 | Change to Standard Time | | 6:30 pm |
| 11/6 | Bingo 11 am | 12/9 | 2nd Hanukkah candle |
| 11/7 | US Election Day | | Religious Services 9:30am |
| 11/9 | Kristallnacht Remembrance | | Bingo 5 pm |
| 11/10 | Religious Services 7:30 pm | | 3rd Hanukkah candle |
| 11/11 | Religious Services 9:30 am | 12/10 | 4th Hanukkah candle |
| | Bingo 5 pm | 12/10 | Hanukkah visits |
| | Veterans Day | 12/11 | Bingo 11 am |
| 11/13 | Bingo 11 am | 12/11 | 5th Hanukkah candle |
| 11/13 | JCC Board Meeting 7 pm | 12/11 | JCC Board Meeting 7 pm |
| 11/14 | Rosh Chodesh | 12/12 | 6th Hanukkah candle |
| 11/17 | Religious Services 7:30 pm | 12/13 | Rosh Chodesh |
| 11/18 | Religious Services 9:30 am | | 7th Hanukkah candle |
| | Bingo 5 pm | 12/14 | 8th Hanukkah candle |
| 11/20 | Bingo 11 am | 12/15 | Religious Services 7:30 pm |
| 11/23 | Thanksgiving | 12/16 | Religious Services 9:30 am |
| 11/24 | Religious Services 7:30 pm | | Bingo 5pm |
| 11/25 | Religious Services 9:30 am | 12/18 | Bingo 11 am |
| | Bingo 5 pm | 12/22 | Religious Services 7:30 pm |
| 11/27 | Bingo 11 am | 12/23 | Religious Services 9:30 am |
| | | | Bingo 5pm |
| 12/1 | Religious Services 7:30 pm | 12/29 | Religious Services 7:30 pm |
| 12/2 | Religious Services 9:30 am | 12/30 | Religious Services 9:30 am |
| | Bingo 5 pm | | Bingo 5pm |
| | | 12/31 | New Year's Eve |

Candle Lighting Times



| | |
|-------------|---------|
| November 3 | 6:27 pm |
| November 10 | 5:22 pm |
| November 17 | 5:19 pm |
| November 24 | 5:17 pm |
| December 1 | 5:16 pm |
| December 8 | 5:17 pm |
| December 15 | 5:19 pm |
| December 22 | 5:22 pm |
| December 29 | 5:26 pm |

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Continued from page 2

CONCLUSION

Imagine a friend calls up and says, "Listen, I got a sure thing in the market. All you need is \$10,000. Plunk it down with me. I guarantee the stock's gonna double tomorrow." Now you're a conservative kind of guy, so you say, "Well, thanks, but no thanks." The next day you look at the paper and guess what? The stock doubled. "Wow, that guy really knows something," you say to yourself. "Seems like he's got inside information." Next day the phone rings again. It's the same friend. He says, "Hey, did you check the paper?" "Yeah, I saw it." "Well, what do you think?" "Pretty good." "Tell you what. Put down the \$10,000 now. The stock's gonna double again tomorrow." Well, now you have to think twice about it. But you're still a bit cautious, so you say, "Um, thanks but no thanks. \$10,000 is a lot of money. I'll leave it for now." You check the paper the next day, and sure enough, the stock doubled again. The portfolio is now worth \$40,000. And you missed it twice. Next day another phone call. This time, you're afraid to answer it. Eventually, after eight rings, you pick up. "Did you check the paper?" "Yeah." "Well, whadya think?" "Pretty good." "Tell you what. You put down the money now, the stock's gonna double again. Check the paper tomorrow, you'll see it." This time you're tempted. You think about it for a few minutes, but then you say, "You know, I'm not really sure..." and you hang up the phone. In the end, you leave it alone. You just can't deal with it. You check the paper the next day, and, sure enough, the stock has doubled. It's now worth \$80,000. The guy calls you up a fourth time. He says, "Listen, did you check the paper?" "Yeah." "Stock doubled." "Yeah." "Portfolio's worth \$80,000. If you come in now, it's still gonna double tomorrow. You coming in?" Now you've been playing it safe all along. You invested in a high level CD, and your \$10,000 is now worth \$10,032.06. His is worth \$80,000. He tries again. "Come on, are you in or not?" You can't deal with it. You say, "I just can't," and you hang up. The stock doubles. It's now worth \$160,000. He calls you up again. He tries a few more times. "It's gonna double, you coming on?" "No. Can't deal with it. Not going in yet." The stock doubles again, now it's worth \$320,000. It's doubled seven times. A couple more times and now it's worth over a million dollars. Finally he calls up one last time and says, "Listen. I want to tell you something. Since you're such a good friend, the whole time I was investing my own \$10,000, I've been investing another \$10,000 for you in a second portfolio. You didn't know it, but you were right there with me all along. The second portfolio is waiting for you. All you have to do is come in right now and claim it. Are you ready or not?" We can look at the seven fundamental wonders of Jewish history and know that our ancestors have been steadily investing for us in the portfolio of Judaism, for generation after generation, up to the present time. It doesn't matter if you've been conscious of this or not; you've been investing all along. And now you can come aboard and reap your rightful payoff.

A Message From Ron Becker

continued from page 3

We have many other activities planned for the next two months at the JCC which include hosting the meeting of the Nature Coast Interfaith Council on October 25th at 10 am and the Lifeline Interfaith Summit on November 8th at 8 am. Please try to attend these important community events if you possibly can. We will be celebrating Hanukkah this year on December 2nd with our annual holiday boat parade watch along the Cotee River in front of our home, a Shabbat dinner on December 8th and by visiting congregants who are homebound and at Trinity Place Assisted Living (where Rabbi Al Goldberg and several other Jewish residents now live) on December 10th and sharing latkes, jelly donuts (sufganyot), and lighting candles to help them enjoy the holiday.

And please stay tuned for our Shabbat dinners and luncheons to take place in January, February, and March as we celebrate landmark birthdays and anniversaries and remember our matriarch Mary Gaines. Praying for Peace!

Ron Becker, Spiritual Leader



Sukkot 5784
 Thank you to everyone who
 came out to decorate
 the JCC's *sukkah*!
 Photos by B. D. Johnson



TASHLICH 5784
 Photos by A. Corby and B. Cohen



Ron Becker participating in the Mental Health First Aid Training Class.
 We are hoping to bring the class to the JCC in the near future
 so that we can all take advantage of it!

THANK YOU

We've just finished the High Holy Day Season and have spent many hours in prayer and spiritual renewal. Many people spent countless hours preparing for this Season so that all of the services proceeded smoothly. They deserve our thanks and gratitude.

Thank you to Ron Becker and Perry Werbel for leading the services and providing insight into the Torah and Haftarah portions which were read over the holiday season and for their incredible stamina. Thank you to Eileen Hochstadt who conducted the English portion of the services and who provided the apples and honey and delicious honey cake. Thank you, Ron, for providing the numerous challahs (and introducing us to the Railroad Square Bakery).

Thank you to Ron for his explanations of the Torah portions that were read and for the eloquent reading of the Torah portions.

Thank you to Eileen, Ron and Ana Calderon, Barbara D. Johnson, Barbara E. Johnson and for their moving Haftarah readings and providing a Shabbat Shuva luncheon in honor of the anniversary of their B'nai Mitzvah.

Thank you to Chris and Ron Becker who again hosted Tashlich services on the Cotee River and then invited us all in for an afternoon of good company, good food and good conversation (this year without a threatening hurricane).

Thank you to Sarah Sekeres who provided the clarion call in her powerful Shofar blowing.

Thank you to Danielle Merkle who chanted the moving Kol Nidre prayer.

Thank you to Eileen who gave a poignant and eloquent Yom Kippur appeal speech reminding us of our past and looking forward to the future for our Jewish Community Center.

Thank you to Marie Abrams who printed the tickets and took care of their sale and distribution and made sure that all of the I's were dotted and the T's were crossed.

Thank you to Brett Landsberg who donated his time and energy to provide security for the congregants and the building.

Thank you to Jeff Hochstadt who helped in the kitchen for our delicious break-the-fast.

Thank you to Barbara D. Johnson who had the monumental task of monitoring the Zoom access and provided all of the tech support.

And thank you to the congregation who came together in prayer whether at home or at the synagogue.

We are an organization of volunteers and these special volunteers gave of themselves to make the High Holy Days meaningful and significant.

We Have Mail

As many of you might know I had a successful right hip replacement on September 7th 2023 right smack in the middle of the busiest times of the year for our Temple. It is with the help of so many people that I was able to successfully get through my recuperation, quickly and the best, no pain. I must say that this is truly a Jewish Community that stuck together and helped each other out through a difficult time. I will try to include everyone the best I can but please excuse me for leaving you out if I did!

Laura Bernas- my dear friend, confidante and most able assistant during my down time. She came and stayed with me during my first week of recovery and there is no better nurse than she. Thank you Laura.

Ron and Chris Becker-with the kindest of words and prayers at my mom and dad's cemetery plots, I was able to virtually be there, even though I was flat on my back. Each and every day they brought Laura to my home and took her home at night so that she may nurse me back to health. I could never thank them enough for all they have done for me.

Jerry & Natalie – who lent me canes, walkers and took me to temple during Rosh Hashanah and took me to doctor appointments and acted as my relative when I needed an advocate at the doctor's office.

Marie Abrams – who has helped me so much to keep the Center running so smooth in my absence. I really depend on her so much for everything. She is a true gem.

Lesley & Rudy from Bingo-for the moral support and the usage of their Cadillac of walkers! The flowers they sent to the house was such a bright light during my recuperation

Barbara D Johnson– who cooked dinners for me and my family every day of the first week of my recovery. Not to mention that she is the best cook ever and we were treated to such wonderful, chicken and rice, pasta and meatballs, chicken cutlet dishes. What a wonderful and kind thing to do for me.




To everyone that came to help out during the High Holy days, to decorate the Sukkah, to set up and clean up for the Break the fast Meal-it meant so much to me to have each and every one there and to be involved. It made it much easier dealing with my recovery knowing things were taken care of at the center

Again, I want to say thank you all from the bottom of my heart for being such dear friends. Your kindness means the world to me.

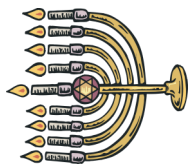
Thanks,
Eileen



November 2023



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|-----|---|--|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 88 6:27 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm | 4 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vayera</i> Bingo 5 pm |
| 5  End of Daylight Saving Time | 6 Bingo 11 am | 7  Election Day | 8 | 9 Kristallnacht Remembrance | 10 88 5:22 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm | 11 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Hayyei sarah</i> Bingo 5 pm Veterans Day |
| 12 | 13 Bingo 11 am JCC Board Meeting 7 pm | 14 Rosh Chodesh | 15 | 16 | 17 88 5:19 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm | 18 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Toledot</i> Bingo 5 pm |
| 19 | 20 Bingo 11 am | 21 | 22 | 23 Thanksgiving Day  | 24 88 5:17 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm | 25 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vayerse</i> Bingo 5 pm |
| 26 | 27 Bingo 11 am | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

December 2023



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 חג 5:16 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm | 2 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vayishlah</i> Bingo 5 pm |
| 3 | 4 Bingo 11 am | 5 | 6 | 7 1st Hanukkah Candle | 8 חג 5:17 pm Religious Services & Dinner 6:30 pm | 9 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vayeshev</i> Bingo 5 pm 3rd Hanukkah Candle |
| 10 Hanukkah Visits 4th Hanukkah Candle | 11 Bingo 11 am JCC Board Meeting 7 pm 5th Hanukkah Candle | 12 6th Hanukkah Candle | 13 Rosh Chodesh 7th Hanukkah Candle | 14 8th Hanukkah Candle | 15 חג 5:19 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm | 16 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Mikkets</i> Bingo 5 pm |
| 17 | 18 Bingo 11 am | 19 | 20 | 21  First day of Winter | 22 חג 5:22 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm Fast of the 10th of Tevet | 23 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vayiggash</i> Bingo 5 pm |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 חג 5:26 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm | 30 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vayhi</i> Bingo 5 pm |
| 31 New Year's Eve |  | | | | | |