

July/August 2023
Tammuz/Av/Ehul
5783

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THE SCHRIER

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



MOVIE NIGHT

Please join us on Friday, August 4th for our next Shabbat dinner. We'll have a brief Shabbat service at 6:30 pm followed by

DINNER AND A SHOW!

The dinner menu will consist of:

Baked ziti, salad, dinner rolls, cake
and... POPCORN!

Please RSVP by July 15th to the
JCC office (727) 847-3814

Cost is only \$20.00 per person (cash, check or credit card). No reservations will be accepted after July 27th.

Dinner will be followed by the movie
"Deli Man",

which examines the Jewish deli business through David "Ziggy" Gruber, a founder of Houston's Kenny & Ziggy's New York Delicatessen Restaurant. This film includes clips of famous deli connoisseurs such as Jerry Stiller, Fyvush Finkel and Larry King.

JULY/AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

- * Tuesday, 7/4
Independence Day
- * Thursday, 7/6 Fast
of 17th of Tammuz
- * Monday, 7/10 7pm
JCC Board Meeting
- * Wednesday, 7/19
Rosh Chodesh
- * Thursday, 7/27
Tish'a B'Av
- * Monday, 8/14 7 pm
JCC Board Meeting
- * Thursday-Friday,
8/17-8/18 Rosh
Chodesh

Shabbat Services
CONDUCTED BY RON BECKER 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 May-June Schrier

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

WONDER #4: FEW IN NUMBER

How have other nations, China or India, for example, managed to stick around for so long? Maybe their success can help us understand what happened with the Jews. The Chinese and the Indians obviously have the advantages of land, language and history. But there have definitely been conquests of these civilizations. Why didn't they disappear? Their sheer numbers! There are so many of them that when the *conqueror* comes in, the conqueror gets swallowed up! There are just too many of them to simply fade into extinction. Put it this way: If any of you here are contemplating conquering a country in the near future, stay clear of China and India. So maybe *that's* the secret! Maybe the Jews will be so numerous, they'll be unable to overpower. True, it's strange to predict an eternal nation. True, exile and dispersion don't make sense. True, there'll be tremendous anti-Semitism. But maybe there'll be so many of them that they just won't be able to be swallowed up. Really? There's a story about an old man who moves out to California. He gets ill and gets worse, and as he's on his last breath, he calls his friend in New York. "Irving," he says. "Yeh?" "This is Harold." "What is it, Harold?" "Come to California, Irving. I'm dying and I have something terrible to confess." So Irving flies out on the next flight and goes to see Harold on his deathbed. "Irving," Harold whispers, "I have a big confession to make." "Tell me, Harold, what is it?" "I converted." "You converted???" "Yeh, I converted." "I can't believe it, Harold. All your life you were a good Jew! And now, in the last few months of your life, you've converted?" "Well," he says, "I figured it out... You know how many gentiles there are in the world? You know how many Jews there are in the world? Better one of *them* should die, than one of us..." That's what you call a *Yiddishe kop*!

Do you know how many Jews there are in the world? I would estimate about 14 to 15 million. There's a graph from Lashinsky's *The Jewish Dispersion*. At the very bottom of the graph, there's a little broken line that keeps bouncing along the bottom of the graph. That little line represents the number of Jews in the world. During the Roman Empire, the Jews constituted 9% of the population. Simple demographics tell us that without the Crusades, the pogroms, the Holocaust, assimilation...the Jewish people today would number well into the hundred millions. We've lost 90 to 95% of our nation. We keep diminishing and diminishing, yet we're still bouncing up and down there, barely hanging on, at the bottom of the graph. Demographically, we should just pack it in. Why don't we? "*And you shall remain few in number among the nations to which G-d shall lead you.*" (Devarim 4:27)

Despite the fact that our tiny size would almost guarantee the failure of the prophecy of an eternal nation, the Torah predicts precisely this. Yes, you'll be persecuted, yes, many of you will be wiped out, but you'll remain a nation. The Torah tells us, "*Zechor yemot olam.*" Keep your eyes on history. And when you do, you begin to perceive that something or someone is pulling the strings. It doesn't matter if the world hates you, persecutes you, scatters you throughout the globe...somehow you're going to remain with your identity intact, even if you're the tiniest nation in existence.

WONDER #5: A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS

The Jews are told that they shall be, "A light unto the nations." What does that mean? How is it possible for a tiny people, exiled and dispersed around the globe, despised by every nation on earth, to be "a light unto the nations?" Now this is getting totally unreasonable. Who's even going to pay attention to us?

There's a book called *Great Religions of the World*. Who would you think is in there? Christianity. Buddhism. Islam. And, of course, there's a chapter on the Jews. What makes Christianity one of the greatest religions in the world? A billion and a half adherents! What makes Islam one of the great religions in the world? 800 million people, maybe more. How about the Jews? With only 12 or 14 million people, why are we one of the "great" religions of the world? If not for the Jews, you wouldn't have Christianity; you wouldn't have Islam. Both are built on the foundations laid by Judaism. Prior to the Jewish religion, the world was paganistic, with no concept of monotheism. The Jews changed all that, and now half the world believes in the concept of one G-d. We're tiny, we're scattered and we're hated. Likely candidates for world influence? Clearly not. Yet somehow, just as the Torah predicted, we're the ones who have made more of an impact on the world than any other nation. Rabbi Motty Berger, a well-known Discovery lecturer, once had a young Chinese artist by the name of Jin Gan living in his house. Now Jin Gan was a very bright fellow who had come to America to study. He was very eager to learn the English language, so every day he read the entire front page of the New York Times. After a while, he began to notice that there were three countries that almost always made the headlines: The United States, the Soviet Union and Israel. Not being very familiar with Israel, Jin Gan asked Rabbi Berger where this country was. Rabbi Berger pulled out a map and pointed to the Middle East. "You see the brown space over there?" "Yeah." "Okay, that's Egypt. Now you see this country over here, the little green area?" "Yeah." "That's Syria. Now, come a little closer. You see this little thing over here, this dot on the map? The one that's so small, the cities have to be written out in the Mediterranean Sea? That dot there -- that's Israel!" "That's Israel?" he says. "I can't believe it! That tiny dot is the country that makes the front page every day? How many people live there?" "Oh, about 5 million Jews." "*Five million Jews?*" In a recent census conducted in China, there are now over one billion, one hundred million Chinese -- with a statistical error of 48 million! That means," he said, "that there are 12 times as many people statistically unaccounted for in China as there are Jews in Israel!" If you want to read a story about China you have to turn to Page 17 in the New York Times. To get on the front page, they have to kill thousands of students in Tiananmen Square. For Israel to get on the front page, you need six kids throwing rocks at a Chevy. Why is this? Somehow, small as we are, the world is always watching.

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A Message From Ron Becker

Dear friends,

I hope you are enjoying your summertime activities and staying safe and happy. I have just returned from a family wedding in Pennsylvania and visited other relatives and friends. In July, we will spend two weeks at our annual reunion (the 53rd consecutive one) with college friends at the beach in Delaware.

During the wedding of our daughter-in-law's sister, my thoughts turned to the cycles of life. Having recently recovered from a serious illness and with the knowledge that members of our congregation have recently lost relatives and close friends, I can appreciate the many wonderful occasions that our lives offer us. This is also reflected in our Hebrew calendar. After celebrating Passover, the holiday of liberation, we then spent seven weeks of reflection while counting the Omer and anticipating another wonderful festival, that of Shavuot. Beginning on July 6th with the Fast of the 17th of Tammuz, we experience the "three weeks" of mourning the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and the expulsion of and scattering of the Hebrew nation attributed by the prophet Jeremiah to immoral practices, disregard of the mitzvot, and lack of concern for others. This period culminates with the observance of Tisha B'Av when we fast and read Jeremiah's *Book of Lamentations*, a graphic description of the calamity. We will read and reflect upon *Lamentations* together in-person and on Zoom on Tisha B'Av morning, Thursday, July 27th at 9:30 am. Then, just as we do in the cycle of life, we experience Shabbat Nachamu (the Sabbath of Consolation) and then we rejoice shortly thereafter for the minor holiday of Tu B'Av, on August 2nd, the Jewish day of love, our own version of Valentine's Day! Then just two days later, we will celebrate Shabbat with our Friday night dinner and program. And before we know it, September and the High Holy Days will be upon us.

On Sunday afternoon, August 27th, we will gather once again for the annual Jewish Heritage Day at Tropicana Field. In addition to enjoying each other's company, we will see the Rays take on their division rival New York Yankees. Stay tuned for details. And of course, October 30-November 10, we travel as a congregation to Israel for a memorable experience for all. If you haven't done so already, please get your reservations into Galilee Travel so that we can make this trip a reality.

So regardless of how you are spending the summer, Chris and I wish you much happiness, good health, and fulfillment. See you in shul and at one of our exciting summer activities.

Ron Becker, Spiritual Leader

DATES TO REMEMBER

7/1	Religious Services 9:30 am
	Bingo 5 pm
7/3	Bingo 11 am
7/4	Independence Day
7/6	Fast of 17th of Tammuz
7/7	Religious Services 7:30 pm
7/8	Religious Services 9:30 am
	Bingo 5 pm
7/10	JCC Board Meeting 7 pm
7/10	Bingo 11 am
7/14	Religious Services 7:30 pm
7/15	Religious Services 9:30 am
	Bingo 5 pm
7/17	Bingo 11 am
7/19	Rosh Chodesh
7/21	Religious Services 7:30 pm
7/22	Religious Services 9:30 am
	Bingo 5 pm
7/24	Bingo 11 am
7/27	Tish'a B'Av Services
	9:30 am
7/28	Religious Services 7:30 pm

7/29	Religious Services 9:30 am
	Bingo 5 pm
7/31	Bingo 11 am
8/4	Shabbat Dinner & Services
	6:30 pm
8/5	Religious Services 9:30 am
	Bingo 5 pm
8/7	Bingo 11 am
8/11	Religious Services 7:30 pm
8/12	Religious Services 9:30 am
	Bingo 5 pm
8/14	JCC Board Meeting 7 pm
8/14	Bingo 11 am
8/17	Rosh Chodesh
8/18	Rosh Chodesh
8/18	Religious Services 7:30 pm
8/19	Religious Services 9:30 am
	Bingo 5 pm
8/21	Bingo 11 am
8/25	Religious Services 7:30 pm
8/26	Religious Services 9:30 am
	Bingo 5 pm
8/28	Bingo 11 am

Candle Lighting Times



July 7	8:14 pm
July 14	8:12 pm
July 21	8:09 pm
July 28	8:06 pm
August 4	8:01 pm
August 11	7:55 pm
August 18	7:49 pm
August 25	7:42 pm

Yom HaShoah

Below are the remarks made by Ron Becker at the City of New Port Richey's Yom HaShoah proclamation ceremony.

Today, we remember the horrific tragedy and loss encountered in the Holocaust. It is a testament to how we can recover from such a disaster that the City of New Port Richey is issuing this proclamation this day not only to remember what happened not so long ago, but to ensure that love and respect will conquer evil wherever we encounter it.

We in the Jewish community are well aware that we must strive to protect the gains we have made during better times in our history while we try to repair the world and make those gains available to all. Even though we did indeed enter the Promised Land immediately after Moses's death, we were exiled from that land by foreign conquerors and have endured several thousand years of subjugation and anti-Semitism culminating in the Holocaust of which my own father was a survivor. Thus, it is not enough to gain freedom initially, but we must hold on to that freedom not only for ourselves but for all on earth.

We appreciate that opportunities and ideals embedded in our American society. However, we are living in a period where the discourse in our nation has descended into one that gives a platform for those who would divide us: citizen against immigrant, straight against gay, white against color, nationalism against globalism and so forth. On this *Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day) we must recommit ourselves to fighting injustices whenever and wherever we see them and to practice the Hebrew *Tikkun Olam*, the repair of the world so that generations of all faiths and colors can reach their own promised land. We must agree to disagree and fight the ideologies of bigotry and injustice rather than attacking those who hold differing views. May the memory of all those who suffered and perished during the Holocaust be a blessing and an inspiration for all that we do during our own brief times on this good earth. Again, thanks to the City of New Port Richey for recognizing this important day.



Above: Ron with Mayor Chopper Davis

Please see page 5 for the verbiage of the Day of Remembrance Proclamation



On April 18, the city of New Port Richey proclaimed April 18 as Day of Remembrance in recognition of Yom HaShoah and presented the proclamation to our Jewish Community Center in a moving ceremony which preceded the City Council meeting. The full text of the proclamation is as follows:

WHEREAS, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systemic persecution and annihilation of 6 million European Jews alongside more than 5 million other innocent victims by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945; and

WHEREAS, it is important that every resident honor those resilient enough to survive the terrible atrocities of the Holocaust that defy our imagination and to never forget the precious lives that were so senselessly lost: and

WHEREAS, the history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to an Act of Congress in 1980, the United States Holocaust Memorial Council designates the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust to be, Yom HaShoah, being Tuesday, April 18, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Day of Remembrance has been set aside for the people to remember the victims of the Holocaust as well as to reflect on the need for respect of all peoples.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chopper Davis, Mayor of the City of New Port Richey, do hereby proclaim April 18, 2023 as Day of Remembrance in the City of New Port Richey in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and in honor of the survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators, and urge all residents to work to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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There's a book called "*The Jewish Mystique*," written by Ernest Vanderhaag. He writes that in the last 50 years of Western civilization, there were four people who shaped the world: Marx, Freud, Einstein, and Darwin. (Three of them were Jewish - and one of them was wrong!) And this is only in the last 150 years of western civilization; just decades after Jews were even permitted into universities! The eternal nation, dispersed throughout the world, few in number, enduring anti-Semitism the likes of which the world has never seen - and at the same time, we're a light unto the nations. Ridiculous? It's just what the Torah predicted, that at the time of the Messiah, the nations will beg us, "Teach us about G-d. You seem to know a lot about Him." People sometimes explain this by saying that since the Jews were such a persecuted, downtrodden people, the prophets made this up to give them hope and encouragement.

Now I don't know about you, but if I were a downtrodden people, would that pick me up? "Just keep on going, even though you're down and out, because some day every nation in the world will come to you to teach them about G-d???" If I wanted to be picked up by the Prophets, I would have them say something like, "Someday, G-d will meet your enemies and utterly destroy them. And you will go in and take over their property and money. Then, you'll live happily ever after." But, no. No matter what we suffer, we are to be a light to the nations.

To be continued in the next issue of *The Schrier*.



UPCOMING EVENTS!

**Jewish Heritage Day at the Trop
(Rays vs. Yankees) August 27th
More information to follow via email**

**Trip to Israel
October 30—November 10, 2023
Please contact Ron Becker for more info**

JULY 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Hukkat & Balak</i> Bingo 5 pm
2	3 BINGO 11 am	4  Independence Day	5	6 Fast of the 17 of Tammuz	7 8 Religious Services 7:30 pm	8 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Pi-nehas</i> Bingo 5 pm
9	10 BINGO 11 am JCC Board Meeting 7 pm	11 	12	13	14 15 Religious Services 7:30 pm	15 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Mattot & Mas'ey</i> Bingo 5 pm
16	17 BINGO 11 am	18	19 Rosh Chodesh	20	21 22 Religious Services 7:30 pm	22 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Davarim</i> Bingo 5 pm
23	24 BINGO 11 am	25	26	27 Tish'a B'av Services 9:30 am	28 29 Religious Services 7:30 pm	29 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Va'et hannan</i> Bingo 5 pm
30	31 BINGO 11 am					

AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 88 8:01 pm Shabbat Services & Dinner 6:30 pm	5 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Ekev</i> Bingo 5 pm
6	7 BINGO 11 am	8	9	10	11 88 7:55 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	12 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Re'eh</i> Bingo 5 pm
13	14 BINGO 11 am JCC Board Meeting 7 pm	15	16	17	18 88 7:49 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm Rosh Chodesh	19 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Shofetim</i> Bingo 5 pm
20	21 BINGO 11 am	22	23	24	25 88 7:42 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	26 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Ki tetsé</i> Bingo 5 pm
27	28 BINGO 11 am	29	30	31		