



September 2019
Elul 5779/Tishri 5780

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THE SCHRIER

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

HIGH HOLY DAY TICKETS

Don't forget to reserve your High Holy Day tickets.

MEMBERS:

Adults (age 18+)	\$45.00
Children (13-17)	\$15.00
Children under 13	Free

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, NON-MEMBERS and GUESTS:

Adults (age 18+)	\$90.00
Children (13-17)	\$25.00
Children under 13	Free

Tickets are on sale now.
Call the office at (727) 847-3814 to make your reservations.

(Please see page 8 for a calendar of
High Holy Day Services)

For your convenience, credit cards are now
accepted (MasterCard, Visa and
American Express)



SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- * Monday, 9/2 Bingo Marathon
- * Monday, 9/9 7 pm JCC Board Meeting
- * Saturday, 9/21 7 pm Pizza supper followed by Selichot Services at 8 pm
- * Page 8 for complete schedule of High Holy Day services

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

LEICA AND THE JEWS

The Leica is the pioneer 35mm camera. It is a German product - precise, minimalist, and utterly efficient. Behind its worldwide acceptance as a creative tool was a family-owned, socially oriented firm that, during the Nazi era, acted with uncommon grace, generosity and modesty. E. Leitz Inc., designer and manufacturer of Germany's most famous photographic product, saved its Jews.

And Ernst Leitz II, the steely-eyed Protestant patriarch who headed the closely held firm as the Holocaust loomed across Europe, acted in such a way as to earn the title, "the photography industry's Schindler."

As soon as Adolf Hitler was named chancellor of Germany in 1933, Ernst Leitz II began receiving frantic calls from Jewish associates, asking for his help in getting them and their families out of the country.

As Christians, Leitz and his family were immune to Nazi Germany's Nuremberg laws, which restricted the movement of Jews and limited their professional activities.

To help his Jewish workers and colleagues, Leitz quietly established what has become known among historians of the Holocaust as "the Leica Freedom Train," a covert means of allowing Jews to leave Germany in the guise of Leitz employees being assigned overseas. Employees, retailers, family members, even friends of family members were "assigned" to Leitz sales offices in France, Britain, Hong Kong and the United States, Leitz's activities intensified after the Kristallnacht of November 1938, during which synagogues and Jewish shops were burned across Germany.

Before long, German "employees" were disembarking from the ocean liner Bremen at a New York pier and making their way to the Manhattan office of Leitz Inc., where executives quickly found them jobs in the photographic industry. Each new arrival had around his or her neck the symbol of freedom - a new Leica camera. The refugees were paid a stipend until they could find work. Out of this migration came designers, repair technicians, salespeople, marketers and writers for the photographic press.

Keeping the story quiet the "Leica Freedom Train" was at its height in 1938 and early 1939, delivering groups of refugees to New York every few weeks. Then, with the invasion of Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, Germany closed its borders. By that time, hundreds of endangered Jews had escaped to America, thanks to the Leitzes' efforts.

How did Ernst Leitz II and his staff get away with it? Leitz, Inc. was an internationally recognized brand that reflected credit on the newly resurgent Reich. The company produced cameras, range-finders and other optical systems for the German military. Also, the Nazi government desperately needed hard currency from abroad, and Leitz's single biggest market for optical goods was the United States.

Even so, members of the Leitz family and firm suffered for their good works. A top executive was jailed for working to help Jews and freed only after the payment of a large bribe. Leitz's daughter, Elsie Kuhn-Leitz, was imprisoned by the Gestapo after she was caught at the border, helping Jewish women cross into Switzerland. She eventually was freed but endured rough treatment in the course of questioning. She also fell under suspicion when she attempted to improve the living conditions of 700 to 800 Ukrainian slave laborers, all of them women, who had been assigned to work in the plant during the 1940s. (After the war, Kuhn-Leitz received numerous honors for her humanitarian efforts, among them the *Officier d'honneur des Palms Academic* from France in 1965 and the Aristide Briand Medal from the European Academy in the 1970s.)

Why has no one told this story until now? According to the late Norman Lipton, a freelance writer and editor, the Leitz family wanted no publicity for its heroic efforts. Only after the last member of the Leitz family was dead did the "Leica Freedom Train" finally come to light. It is now the subject of a book, "The Greatest Invention of the Leitz Family: The Leica Freedom Train," by Frank Dabba Smith, a California-born Rabbi currently living in England.

Memories of the righteous should live on...

(Eileen has purchased the book mentioned above and will place it in the JCC library)

A Message From Ron Becker

As the long summer nears its end, I hope you have all had a good one and feel energized to dive into the fall season with renewed vigor. Chris and I had the opportunity to host our grandsons and participate in the 49th consecutive year of meeting college friends and their families for a two week vacation at the beach in Delaware, a tradition that has included four generations. Hard to believe it started with just three college buddies and has morphed into a tradition for so many. The summer just wouldn't be the summer if we didn't all get together at this beautiful venue and renew the bonds of our friendships. The concept of "routine", i.e. experiencing the same things every year, often and unfairly gets a bad rap. As Jews, we are very used to routine and to celebrating the seasons along with all their traditions essentially the same way. Our prayers, hopes, and aspirations don't substantially change, but become more meaningful as we repeat them year after year. The words don't change, but as we age and mature, our perspective changes and our appreciation for all that we have (family, friendships, our religious and secular communities and institutions) become more meaningful and we gain a deeper understanding of ourselves and the worlds that we occupy.

We will soon enter the High Holy Days and many joyous holidays (Sukkot, Hoshanah Rabba, Shmini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah) occurring in rapid succession immediately following Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Again, we will experience routines that are thousands of years old, but with a newer and deeper perspective gained from our life experiences of the past year. We begin to get ready for this holiest season of the year at the beginning of the month of Elul on Sunday, September 1st. On that day and every weekday morning between then and Rosh Hashanah, we blow the Shofar helping to shake away summer doldrums and reawaken us to the seriousness of the season to come. Then three weeks later on Saturday evening September 21st, we gather at the synagogue for Selichot services consisting of prayers for forgiveness in preparation for the High Holy Days. A week later on the night of Sunday, September 29th and continuing on Monday and Tuesday, we come together as a community to celebrate Rosh Hashanah with prayer and tradition, including the blowing of the Shofar and gathering at my home on the Cottee River for Tashlich, the symbolic casting off of sins into the running water on Monday afternoon, September 30th followed by refreshments and the opportunity to renew old friendships and acquaintances and make new ones.

Much more on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and all the holidays that follow in quick succession in next month's *Schrier*, but in the meantime, Chris and I wish you all a happy and healthy September (Elul 5779) as we prepare for the new year of 5780.

Ron Becker, Spiritual Leader

DATES TO REMEMBER

9/1	Rosh Chodesh
9/2	Bingo Marathon Doors open at 8am First game at 10 am Labor Day (office is closed)
9/5	Bingo 10 am
9/6	Religious Services 7:30 pm
9/7	Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm
9/9	JCC Board Meeting 7 pm
9/11	Patriot Day
9/12	Bingo 10 am
9/13	Religious Services 7:30 pm
9/14	Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm
9/19	Bingo 10 am

9/20	Religious Services 7:30 pm
9/21	Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm Pizza Supper 7:00 pm Selichot Services 8:00 pm
9/26	Bingo 10 am
9/27	Religious Services 7:30 pm
9/28	Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm
9/29	Erev Rosh Hashanah Services 6:30 pm
9/30	Rosh Hashanah Services 9:30 am Tashlich 3:00 pm Mincha 6:30 pm Ma'Ariv 7:00 pm

Candle Lighting Times



Sept. 6	7:28 PM
Sept. 13	7:20 PM
Sept. 20	7:11 PM
Sept. 27	7:03 PM

Religious School Update

Religious School for the 2019/2020 term will begin on **Sunday, November 3rd at 10 am.**

Classes will be held every other Sunday.

There is a \$100.00 fee per family (not per student) to cover the cost of materials, craft supplies and snacks.



COME ONE, COME ALL

THE J.C.C. WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL LABOR DAY BINGO MARATHON ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2019. DOORS OPEN AT 8 AM. GAMES START AT 10 AM.

IF YOU HAVE SOME FREE TIME, COME AND VOLUNTEER OR COME AND PLAY AND SUPPORT YOUR CENTER.



SELICHOT

Please join us on Saturday, September 21 at 7:00 pm where we will enjoy a free pizza dinner followed by coffee and cake.

Then we will enter the Sanctuary for Selichot Services at 8:00 pm

Whereas this is a free dinner, we still need a head count to ensure enough pizza for everyone. You must RSVP to the office by Monday, September 16.

No RSVP = No Pizza

Mahjong

Thanks to a referral from Judy Brevoort, the JCC will host Sunday mahjong tournaments beginning on Sunday, October 27th. One of the organizers of the tournament is willing to teach anyone interested in learning the game. I am trying to get a group together that would meet in the afternoon at the JCC for lessons. If you are interested, please call me at (727) 692-6431.

Eileen H.

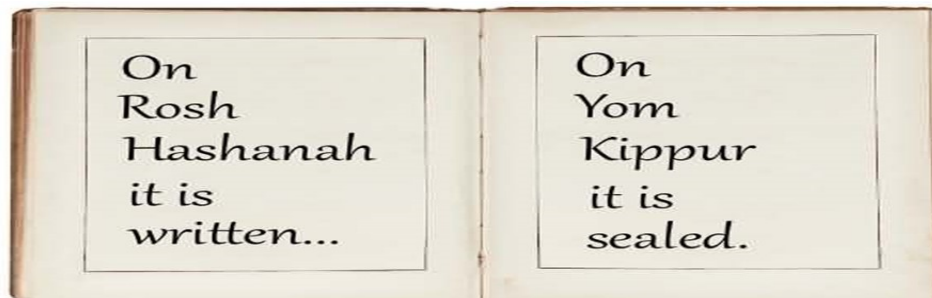
SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 5th at 9:30 am, four of our congregants will be called to the Torah for their B'nai Mitzvot. Please join Ana Calderon, Barbara D. Johnson, Barbara E. Johnson and Arthur Simon on this very important occasion.


High Holy Days Services 2019 (5780)

Selichot	Saturday, September 21 Pizza Supper 7:00 PM	Services 8:00 PM	
Rosh Hashanah Erev Rosh Hashanah	Sunday, September 29		6:30 PM
Rosh Hashanah Tashlich	Monday, September 30		9:30 AM
Mincha	Monday, September 30		3:00 PM *
Ma'Ariv	Monday, September 30		6:30 PM
Rosh Hashanah	Tuesday, October 1		7:00 PM
Shabbat Shuva (Includes four adult B'nai Mitzvot)	Saturday, October 5		9:30 AM
Cemetery Visitation	Sunday, October 6	Trinity Memorial Grace Memorial Bushnell	11:00 AM 12:30 PM 2:30 PM
Yom Kippur Kol Nidre	Tuesday, October 8		6:15 PM
Yom Kippur Mincha	Wednesday, October 9		9:30 AM
Yizkor	Wednesday, October 9		5:15 PM
Neilah	Wednesday, October 9		6:15 PM
“BREAK - THE - FAST” WILL FOLLOW NEILAH SERVICE			
Sukkot Erev Sukkot	Sunday, October 13		6:30 PM
Sukkot	Monday, October 14		9:30 AM
Hoshanah Rabbah	Sunday, October 20		9:30 AM
Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor	Monday, October 21		9:30 AM
Simchat Torah	Monday, October 21	Ice Cream Social Services	5:30 PM 6:30 PM

* We will meet at the pavilion on the Cottee River across from Chris and Ron Becker's home.



September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Rosh Chodesh	2 Labor Day Bingo Marathon Doors open at 8 am First Game at 10 am Labor Day	3	4	5 10 am BINGO	6 ׀׀ Religious Services 7:30 pm	7 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Shoftim</i> Bingo 5 pm
8	9 JCC Board Meeting 7 pm	10	11 Patriot Day	12 10 am BINGO	13 ׀׀ Religious Services 7:30 pm	14 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Ki Teitzei</i> Bingo 5 pm
15	16	17	18	19 10 am BINGO	20 ׀׀ Religious Services 7:30 pm	21 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Ki Tavo</i> Selichot Services 7:00 pm Bingo 5 pm
22	23  1st Day of Autumn	24	25	26 10 am BINGO	27 ׀׀ Religious Services 7:30 pm	28 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Nitzavim</i> Bingo 5 pm
29 Rosh Hashanah Services 6:30 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah	30 ׀׀ Rosh Hashanah Services 9:30 am Tashlich 3:00 pm Rosh Hashanah Services 6:30 pm	L' Shanah Tovah Have a sweet year! 