

*November/December
2024
Tishri/Cheshvan/Kislev
5785*

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THE SCHRIER

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

Holiday Happenings

**Please join us on Sunday, December 29 at 6:00 pm
for dinner to celebrate Hanukkah.**

**We will have corned beef, pastrami (kosher, of
course), rye bread, coleslaw (it's cabbage...it counts
as a vegetable...) 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, December 12th.**

**Ron and Chris will host members and
friends at the annual Cotee River Boat Parade
on Saturday, December 7 at 6:00 pm
at the pavilion on the river.**

**We will visit Trinity Place Assisted Living to
celebrate and share Hanukkah on December 29 at
2:00 pm with their residents.**

NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- * Sunday, 11/3 Change to Standard Time
- * Saturday, 11/9 Kristallnacht Remembrance
- * Monday, 11/11 Veterans Day
- * Monday, 11/11 7 pm JCC Board Meeting
- * Thursday, 11/28 Thanksgiving (office closed)
- * Monday, 12/9 7 pm JCC Board Meeting
- * Wednesday, 12/25 First candle of Hanukkah
- * Tuesday, 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**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-by Eileen Hochstadt

The holiday of Sukkot (Tabernacles)

**My Jewish Learning had a short but real relevant article this month on this holiday.
I thought I would share it with y'all!**

During Sukkot, Jews are commanded to live (eat and sleep) in a hut-like structure called a *Sukkah*. The Talmud states two reasons for the mitzvah of living in the *Sukkah* for seven days. The first is to commemorate that our ancestors dwelled in *Sukkahs* in the wilderness. The second is to remember the “clouds of glory” that surrounded and protected the Jews in the desert. The Talmud seems to lean towards the second explanation. If this is the case, then why do we use a hut to represent the clouds? Wouldn't it make more sense for us to live out in the open air, under the clouds? Wouldn't that give us more of a feeling of complete dependence on the protection given us by G-d?

Although, in truth, living out “under the clouds” does starkly represent total dependence on G-d, real life isn't as clear cut. We all try to build structures to provide us with security and protection. We live in these structures and feel safe and in control. We view these structures as permanent and without them we could not function. The reality, however, is that our structures are really just flimsy huts that create for us the illusion of permanence and security. They fall apart when we least expect them too.

The *Sukkah* that we live in for seven days reminds us that our own structures of security – our houses, careers, social status – are just temporary. They last for a week, a month, a year, several years, but are then taken down. The *Sukkah* reminds us that our real security and protection comes not from the walls that we build but from the graces of G-d.

It is sort of ironic that we celebrate this moving Holiday during a turbulent time like the month of October 2024. The Divine used “Mother Nature's wrath” and gave us here in Florida a taste of what “living” in *Sukkah* might have been like way back when.

May we all be blessed with the wisdom to differentiate between the security that is true and comes only from G-d and the false security of the hut that just looks real, but is only an illusion. And may we be blessed with peace in Israel and the entire world.

Respectfully submitted,

Your President, Eileen M Hochstadt

**Celebrating the five year anniversary
of their B'nai Mitzvah,
October 5, 2024.**

**Ana Calderon, Art Simon,
Barbara D. Johnson, Barbara E.
Johnson (on Zoom).
Ron Becker, seated.**



A Message From Ron Becker

Dear friends,

With the holiday season and hopefully, the major storms that accompanied them behind us, we are energized to begin our fall/winter season of prayer, study, and community service. Thanks to all who made the High Holy Days and subsequent festival days such a delight and success including our Selichot dinner and service, our cemetery visitations, erev Rosh Hashanah dinner, Rosh Hashanah, Tashlich, Kol Nidre, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Hoshana Rabbah, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah social hour and celebration. We managed to hold all of our events and services at our most difficult climate events and are happy to report no major damages among the members and friends of our community. However, we think of those who lost their homes and/or livelihoods in our region and strive to make this a better place for all. Our volunteer efforts at Metropolitan Ministries are more needed than ever. We will be there monthly throughout the year. Please consider joining us:

Thursday, October 31st from 11 am until 2:30 pm at the Pasco headquarters at 3216 US 19 in Holiday across from Sun Toyota.

Tuesday, November 26th from 11 am until 2:30 pm at the holiday tent on the grounds of Generations Church at 1540 Little Road in Trinity

Thursday, December 19th from 11 am until 2:30 pm at the holiday tent on the grounds of Generations Church at 1540 Little Road in Trinity

If you are unable to donate some time at these events, please consider making a financial donation to purchase food and clothing for the families that need it through Metropolitan Ministries or other organizations such as Feeding Tampa Bay, Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, or any of the many other efforts in our community. Together we can make a difference in people's lives.

Now that the holidays are in our rearview mirror and the weather is spectacular, we begin the month of Cheshvan at the same time we begin reading the studying the Book of Genesis (Bereshit). This year, we will be reading the third triennial of each Torah portion. We read these words with another year of living new experiences to add context and perhaps new meaning and understanding to them. Rest assured that we will be with you each and every Shabbat throughout the year to share this experience.

Although Cheshvan is the only Hebrew month that contains no religious holidays, we will be observing Thanksgiving with our interfaith community on the evening of Tuesday, November 26th with our friends at Temple Beth David in Spring Hill with which we have established a wonderful relationship as we share our events and activities at each other's shul.

Continued on page 4

DATES TO REMEMBER

11/1	Religious Services 7:30 pm	11/30	Bingo 5 pm
11/2	Religious Services 9:30 am	12/1	Bingo 1:30 pm
	Bingo 5 pm	12/2	Bingo 11 am
11/3	Change to Standard Time	12/6	Religious Services 7:30 pm
11/3	Bingo 1:30 pm	12/7	Religious Services 9:30 am
11/4	Bingo 11 am		Bingo 5 pm
11/5	US Election Day	12/8	Bingo 1:30 pm
11/8	Religious Services 7:30 pm	12/9	Bingo 11 am
11/9	Kristallnacht Remembrance		JCC Board Meeting 7 pm
11/9	Religious Services 9:30 am	12/13	Religious Services 7:30 pm
	Bingo 5 pm	12/14	Religious Services 9:30am
11/10	Bingo 1:30 pm		Bingo 5 pm
11/11	Bingo 11 am	12/15	Bingo 1:30 pm
	Veterans Day	12/16	Bingo 11 am
	JCC Board Meeting 7 pm	12/20	Religious Services 7:30 pm
11/15	Religious Services 7:30 pm	12/21	Religious Services 9:30 am
11/16	Religious Services 9:30 am		Bingo 5pm
	Bingo 5 pm	12/22	Bingo 1:30 pm
11/17	Bingo 1:30 pm	12/23	Bingo 11 am
11/18	Bingo 11 am	12/25	First candle of Hanukkah
11/22	Religious Services 7:30 pm	12/27	Religious Services 7:30 pm
11/23	Religious Services 9:30 am	12/28	Religious Services 9:30 am
	Bingo 5 pm		Bingo 5pm
11/24	Bingo 1:30 pm	12/29	Bingo 1:30 pm
11/25	Bingo 11 am	12/29	Hanukkah visitation 2 pm
11/28	Thanksgiving	12/29	Hanukkah Party 6 pm
11/29	Religious Services 7:30 pm	12/30	Bingo 11 am
11/30	Religious Services 9:30 am	12/31	New Year's Eve

Candle Lighting Times



November 1	6:27 pm
November 8	5:23 pm
November 15	5:19 pm
November 22	5:17 pm
November 29	5:16 pm
December 6	5:17 pm
December 13	5:18 pm
December 20	5:21 pm
December 27	5:25 pm

SHOW ME THE MONEY SUNDAY AFTERNOON BINGO



Fashion Show Fundraiser

On February 25, 2025 we will hold a fashion show at the JCC in conjunction with Temple Beth David (Spring Hill). We need volunteers to be models and luncheon servers.

Please contact Wendy Seldin if you are interested in volunteering.

More information will be available in the next edition of *The Schrier*.

FUNDRAISER

First Helene and then Milton. These hurricanes did much damage to homes and businesses near and far.

They also did a number on our sukkah. We are in the process of getting prices to rebuild our sukkah for next Sukkot.

As this progresses, consider making a donation to your JCC to help in this rebuilding process.

Thank you!

A Message From Ron Becker

Continued from page 3

We will be planning to attend and cheer on the Tampa Bay Lightning with them on Jewish Heritage Night on Thursday, December 19th at 7 pm at Amalie Arena. Details to follow! We will also be holding our annual pre-Hanukkah party on the evening of the Cotee River boat parade sharing latkes, sufganyot (traditional jelly donuts), and other treats on the river at the park in front of Chris's and my residence on Saturday, December 7th at 6 pm.

And Hanukkah will be here soon! We will celebrate by sharing song, food, and drink, and Hanukkah candles with the residents of the Trinity Place Assisted Living facility on Sunday, December 29th at 2 pm at their home at 8684 Old Highway 54. We and the residents had a delightful time last year and we continue the tradition of bringing our synagogue to those who are unable to travel to us. Then, that same evening, we will enjoy our annual Hanukkah party at the synagogue and light the 5th candle together in joy and thankfulness. So, let's all come together to celebrate this season in prayer, study, love, and service.

Ron Becker, Spiritual Leader

Coming Soon

**Interested in learning how to make
and bake challah?**

**If there is sufficient interest,
we will start this program on
a Sunday evening in the
near future. Please let
Wendy Seldin know if you 'knead'
to learn this skill.**

Please visit the JCC's web page at:

jccwestpasco.com

(our easy-to-remember site!)

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

Visit Our
Website

SUKKAH DECORATION

October 13, 2024

Photos by Barbara D. Johnson



REMINDER

This is the last issue of *The Schrier* that will be delivered via the U.S. Postal Service. For all members with known email addresses, the January/February 2025 issue will be delivered electronically. If we do not have an email address for you, you will continue to receive *The Schrier* in the mail.

**Thank you for helping us to save paper
and save trees!**



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 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 Chris Becker and Ana Calderon, Barbara D. Johnson, Barbara E. Johnson and Art Simon and for their moving Haftarah readings and providing a Shabbat Shuva luncheon in honor of the fifth 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.

Thank you to Sarah Sekeres and Danielle Merkle who provided the clarion call with their 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 Wendy Seldin and Eileen Hochstadt who shopped and prepared the delicious break-the-fast which was enjoyed by all as well as our first Rosh Hashanah dinner.

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

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.








Break-the-fast 5785

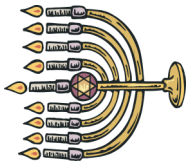
Photos by Barbara D. Johnson




November 2024

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

December 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Show Me the \$\$\$ Bingo 1:30 pm	2 Bingo 11 am	3	4	5	6 חג Religious Services 7:30 pm	7 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vayetse</i> Bingo 5 pm
Rosh Chodesh 1	Rosh Chodesh 2					
8 Show Me the \$\$\$ Bingo 1:30 pm	9 Bingo 11 am JCC Board Meeting 7 pm	10	11	12	13 חג Religious Services 7:30 pm	14 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vayishlah</i> Bingo 5 pm
15 Show Me the \$\$\$ Bingo 1:30 pm	16 Bingo 11 am	17	18	19	20 חג Religious Services 7:30 pm	21 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vayeshev</i> Bingo 5 pm 1st Day of Winter
22 Show Me the \$\$\$ Bingo 1:30 pm	23 Bingo 11 am	24	25	26	27 חג Religious Services 7:30 pm	28 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Mikkets</i> Bingo 5 pm 4th Hanukkah Candle
29 Show Me the \$\$\$ Bingo 1:30 pm Hanukkah Party 6 pm 5th Hanukkah Candle	30 Bingo 11 am 6th Hanukkah Candle	31  New Year's Eve 7th Hanukkah Candle				