



## Palm Harbor rabbi performs opening prayer in US House

By JACOB McMANAMON  
Jewish Press

Rabbi Gary Klein of Temple Ahavat Shalom had the honor of giving the opening prayer to the U.S. House of Representatives on June 27.

He was introduced as guest chaplain by Congressman Gus Bilirakis and an-

nounced by House Speaker Paul Ryan.

"It was very exciting. It made me feel proud to be an American citizen and proud to be Jewish," said Rabbi Klein.

Rabbi Klein has a longstanding friendship with Bilirakis, a Republican congressman from Palm Harbor where the

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VOL. 30, NO. 1

TAMPA, FLORIDA ☆ JULY 14 - AUGUST 10, 2017

16 PAGES

## Menorah Manor sells The Inn on the Pond

By BOB FRYER  
Jewish Press

A little more than five years after its grand opening on April 1, 2012, The Inn on the Pond, an assisted living facility in Clearwater operated by Menorah Manor, was sold on June 30.

The 80-unit rental facility was sold to Florwater Investment Group, LLC, a joint venture between affiliates of Solera Senior Living, LLC, and Elkco Properties, Inc., and has now been rebranded as The Preserve at Clearwater.

The decision to sell was not an easy one, but had to be done to help sustain the future of the "mother ship," Menorah Manor's St. Petersburg campus: the Marion and Bernard L. Samson Nursing Center and Toby Weinman Assisted Living Residences, said Menorah Manor CEO Rob Goldstein.

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The assisted living facility got its name because of the picturesque pond on the property, where the Golda Meir/Kent Jewish Center also once stood. With the sale, the ALF has been rebranded as The Preserve at Clearwater.



From left: Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services staff members Debra Cusick and Cindy Minetti look on as Marlene Wain, Gulf Coast case manager, holds a check from Holocaust survivor Betty Goldberg, with daughter Renee Arnold by her side.

## Holocaust survivor collects rare settlement; donates a portion to help others

By JACOB McMANAMON  
JEWISH PRESS

As a Jewish child in France in the 1940s, Betty Goldberg lived in terror, constantly afraid of what the knock on the door would mean.

A Gentile man who had befriended her father before he was shipped off on a train to Auschwitz hid her. She had to live

under an assumed name and carry false papers, but she survived as, miraculously, did her parents.

In the years since, Goldberg has lived a calm, comfortable life, working at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., and spending time with her family and friends. She never expected anything

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## Many Jewish leaders angered by Israel moves on Wall, conversions

By BEN SALES  
JTA news service

Many American Jewish leaders are calling it a betrayal. They say that 17 months after achieving a historic Western Wall agreement to provide a non-Orthodox space at Judaism's holiest prayer site, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reneged in a Cabinet vote Sunday, June 25, effectively canceling the deal and caving to the interests of his haredi Orthodox coalition partners.

The same day, the Israeli government advanced a bill giving the Chief Rabbinate complete control over conversions in Israel. Both votes brought swift and angry reactions from the non-Orthodox American Jewish community, and at least in the case of the conversion bill yielded some results with the Israeli Cabinet postponing the law for six months.

As for the freeze on the Wall agreement, Netanyahu disagrees that the Cabinet vote killed the agreement on expansion of non-Orthodox space there. Far from killing it, he believes the vote has given it new life. And far from betraying Diaspora Jewry, he says the vote shows his concern for Jews around the world.

The Western Wall agreement, which was passed by the Cabinet in January 2016, has three components, explained a senior Israeli official. First is a physical expansion and upgrade of the non-Orthodox prayer section south of the familiar Western Wall plaza. Second is the construction of a shared entrance to the Orthodox and non-Orthodox sections. Third is the creation of a government-appointed, interdenominational committee to govern the non-Orthodox section.

The Cabinet's decision, the senior official said, leaves in place the physical expansion of the prayer site while suspending the creation of the committee, which was to include Reform and Conservative representatives. Netanyahu's haredi partners, the official said, objected to the idea that the

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## Israeli companies sell themselves at Tampa event

By JAMIE SHAPIRO  
Jewish Press

More than 350 people gathered at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC on June 22 to learn about eight Israeli start-up businesses that are using offices at the JCC as a base for establishing markets in America.

Israeli company executives pitched their businesses at the first-ever Florida Israel Business Accelerator (FIBA) Collaborative Exchange, an event which included a speech by Tampa Bay Lightning owner Jeff Vinik, who is redeveloping

COMPANIES continued on PAGE 6



Company founders: (L-R) Bob Reish (WeissBeurger), Oren Milstein (StemRad), Oleg Korol (Tevatronic), Derek Schwartz (Safe-T), David Sachs (Tomobox), Yaniv Shneiderman (BlazePod), and Gonen Vardi (eProc Solutions) at the Florida-Israel Business Accelerator.

The Jewish Press Group of Tampa Bay, Inc.  
Jewish Press of Pinellas County  
P. O. Box 6970  
Clearwater, FL 33758-6970

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## ADL raps Jay-Z for lyrics in new song

WASHINGTON — The Anti-Defamation League expressed concern about a Jay-Z lyric that "Jewish people own all the property in America," but emphasized that it did not believe that the rapper intended to promote anti-Semitism.

"The lyric does seem to play into deep-seated anti-Semitic stereotypes about Jews and money," said an ADL statement. "The idea that Jews 'own all the property' in this country and have used credit to financially get ahead are odious and false. Yet, such notions have lingered in society for decades, and we are concerned that this lyric could feed into preconceived notions about Jews and alleged Jewish 'control' of the banks and finance."

The song, "The Story of O.J.," on Jay-Z's latest album, "4:44," has attracted negative attention for its lyric, "You wanna know what's more important than throwin' away money at a strip club? Credit/You ever wonder why Jewish people own all the property in America? This how they did it."

Jay-Z's defenders say the lyric is typical of his use of exaggerated stereotypes to make broader points about social problems — in this case, counseling African-American empowerment through emulation of Jewish business leaders.

"We do not believe it was Jay-Z's intent to promote anti-Semitism," the ADL said. "On the contrary, we know that Jay-Z is someone who has used his celebrity in the past to speak out responsibly and forcefully against the evils of racism and anti-Semitism."

## The Jewish Press moves

The *Jewish Press* has moved to new offices in St. Petersburg.

This is just the third move in the 31-year history of the newspaper. For the past 15 years, the paper's staff has worked out of an office in Largo.

Our new address is 6416 Central Ave. in St. Petersburg. Our office hours are generally 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., but it's always best to call before you stop by to make sure someone will be there.

Our post office box remains the same: PO Box 6970, Clearwater, FL, 33758.

The main phone numbers to reach us are also the same: (727) 535-4400 and (813) 871-2332.

There is a quirk regarding the phone number, however. Caller ID should still identify the call as coming from the *Jewish Press*, but the number will show up as (727) 440-9665. Don't ask why...

The one number that has changed is our fax line. The new number is (727) 440-6037.

Of course, you can also still reach us by email (Yes, don't make fun. We still use AOL): jewishpressnews@aol.com for congregation and organization news items; jewishpress@aol.com for any other general queries; and jewishpressads@aol.com for ad information.

You may also read the latest edition; get up-to-date news of the world; search our archives; download forms such as Bar/Bat Mitzvah announcements, deadline schedules and advertising information on our websites:

www.jewishpresspinellas.com and  
www.jewishpresstampa.com.

# Interim rabbi to assume responsibilities at Congregation Kol Ami in August

Conservative Congregation Kol Ami in north Tampa will welcome Rabbi Howard Siegel as interim rabbi for the upcoming year, beginning in August.

Rabbi Siegel is coming to Tampa from Vancouver, British Columbia.

Rabbi Siegel and his wife, Dr. Ellen Lefkowitz, will be at the Shabbat services on Friday, Aug. 4 at 6:30



Rabbi Howard Siegel

p.m., with an oneg to follow, then will be at Shabbat services on Saturday, Aug. 5 at 9:30 a.m., with a kiddush luncheon to follow. The Brotherhood and Sisterhood will host a meet and greet session for the couple on Sunday, Aug. 6 at 10 a.m., including a brunch.

Rabbi Siegel has served as an interim pulpit rabbi in three different congregations, most recently for three years at Beth Tikvah Congregation in the Vancouver area. His priorities are focused on community building, outreach and education, according to a biography provided by Kol Ami.

The rabbi, who grew up in Spokane, WA,

said his involvement in Jewish summer camps motivated him to become a rabbi.

He began his career as a public school teacher and then attended the University of Judaism followed by the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, where he earned his Master of Arts in Judaica and was ordained.

Rabbi Siegel was founding director of the Solomon Schechter Day School of St. Louis, the interim Hillel director for the University of Minnesota, the assistant rabbi/educational director of Congregation Beth Israel in Vancouver, and a teacher in Portland, OR. He also served as a chaplain in the U.S. Naval

Reserve.

Rabbi Siegel has been widely published and he has been active in many professional organizations, including the Rabbinical Assembly, Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, National Rabbinic Cabinet of Israel Bonds, National UJC Rabbinic Cabinet and Chancellor's Rabbinic Cabinet of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Siegel is replacing Rabbi Bob Judd, who after 7 years leaves to pursue a doctorate in Chassadic teachings degree at Jewish Theological Seminary. He will also serve a congregation in Brooklyn.

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*We have been a part of Temple Ahavat Shalom family from its inception. To watch our daughter grow and learn through the Jewish traditions, values, and culture she is taught here is a special honor. She has made wonderful friends and enjoys coming to temple each Sunday morning. We are so proud of her accomplishments thus far, and look forward to her experiencing even more throughout her religious school years.*



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*Both of our children have learned so much and have embraced their Jewish identities thanks to the loving and dedicated team of teachers and leaders at Temple Ahavat Shalom's Religious School. The Hebrew and Judaic programs are exemplary. We are so thankful to be part of such a wonderful community and family at Ahavat Shalom!*

**The Heinz Family**

*"Our Temple Will Be Your Second Home."*

## COMPANIES

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

a large sector of downtown Tampa's Channelside District, and to hear from a panel of local business experts.

FIBA, founded in 2016 by the Tampa Jewish Community Centers & Federation, is a technology accelerator with the purpose of helping establish and nurture successful, high-growth Israeli tech ventures in the Tampa Bay area.

Each startup works with the FIBA organization for 12-18 weeks, with the next batch of startups expected to begin in the fall of 2018. FIBA is based at the Glazer JCC and is headed by former JCC executive director Jack Ross.

The FIBA event's purpose was simple, show the people of Tampa just how promising these Florida-Israel partnerships are and provide an in-depth look into what exactly these startups are doing in Israel and hope to do in America. CEOs from the eight startups currently working with FIBA prepared presentations for guests, each lasting about 10 minutes and highlighting the importance of the Florida-Israel collaboration in their success.

The startups ranged from an Israeli beverage management company, WeissBeerger, to a group that has created anti-radiation gear that will be tested on NASA's next flight to Mars, Stemrad.

One of the eight, Tomobox, an Israeli startup that uses artificial intelligence and smart bots in customer service, announced their plan to build their headquarters in Tampa, creating jobs and boosting the economy.

Tomobox CEO David Sachs said he decided to make the move to Tampa permanent after his involvement with FIBA and experiencing first-hand the Tampa Bay area and the promise it holds.

Like Sachs, the Lightning's Vinik shared his enthusiasm for the local region.

"We just have to let it be known that Tampa and the Tampa Bay area is open for business in the innovation space," Vinik said.

Vinik and his local real estate company, Strategic Property Partners, are currently undertaking a \$3 billion mixed-use development project that aims to revitalize downtown Tampa. A big reason for this investment is to keep attracting the best and brightest to Tampa, to live and work, he said.

"Tampa is one of the country's best kept se-



**Yeniv Shneiderman, CEO and founder of BlazePod, presents his fitness solution onstage.**

crets," Vinik said. "We need to change that."

Many of the companies flew in their CEOs from Israel, including fitness startup BlazePod's CEO Yeniv Shneiderman and Oleg Korol of Tevatronic, an automated irrigation company that aims for optimal crop growth for farmers.

Jobs were a primary focus at the collaborative exchange, and local officials, including Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandy Murman, are strong believers in these startups and whatever future ones may join FIBA.

"Our Hillsborough government is completely devoted to these startups," she said.

In spite of budget cuts, Murman said they would continue to give between \$100,000 and \$150,000 to the organization annually.

The CEOs of the eight startups currently working with FIBA all expressed a genuine desire to increase the workforce and enhance the city of Tampa.

The event also featured a panel of local investors, educators and businesspeople who discussed the potential that the Israeli startups possess and how it could possibly help the local economy.

In an area that is rife with culture, culinary experiences and incredible educational opportunities, such as the University of Tampa and the University of South Florida, it's no wonder these startups are interested in coming to Tampa and getting their starts, Vinik said.

"We're at the tip of the iceberg," he said. "But we have all the potential in the world to be successful."

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