



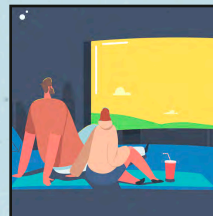
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# SHOFAR

*Schaarai Zedek News*  
*Volume 127*  
*Number 1*  
*July - August 2023*  
*Tammuz - Elul 5783*

## **Back-to-School Celebrations**

*Get ready for back-to-school with Congregation Schaarai Zedek! We have an exciting lineup of upcoming programs designed for kids of all ages. From educational activities to fun-filled events, there's something for everyone. Make sure to mark your calendar and join in on the fun. We're eagerly looking forward to seeing you here!*

***Check out our programs on pages 10-13.***



## Connect with us

### Live Streaming

Services are streamed at [zedek.org/streaming](http://zedek.org/streaming) and are available for a limited time for "on demand" viewing.

### Public Access Television

TBCN broadcasts our Shabbat Services on public access television in Hillsborough County. Tune in Fridays at 7 PM to the following channels: Frontier Channel 30, Spectrum Channel 639, and Comcast Channel 20. Replays on the above channels air Sundays at 4 PM.

### Roku

Simply plug a Roku Streaming Stick into your TV and search for Congregation Schaarai Zedek. Follow the instructions to add it to your channels.

### Facebook

Find us at [facebook.com/CSZtampa](https://facebook.com/CSZtampa). Follow us to like, comment, and share!

### YouTube

Watch past services, sermons, and more on our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/congregationschaaraizedek](https://youtube.com/congregationschaaraizedek).

### Podcast

Listen to past sermons on our podcast by searching for Schaarai Zedek on iTunes, SoundCloud, Google Play, and Stitcher.

### eNews

Our weekly eNews email goes out Wednesdays with updates on upcoming events. If you are not receiving email communications, please email [office@zedek.org](mailto:office@zedek.org) to let us know.

# Welcome!



Carla Markowitz  
President

**G**reetings Congregation Schaarai Zedek!

It is an honor and a privilege to have been chosen as your next President. I am so proud (and a little overwhelmed!) to be given this tremendous opportunity to serve the Congregation and the temple. Thank you for trusting me to carry on the

noble and historic tradition of Congregation Schaarai Zedek.

The Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee have exciting plans for the coming year and have made incredible strides in developing personnel infrastructure, team building, and strategic planning with the invaluable help from Renee Dabbs, our consultant who has been working with our staff and lay

leaders since January. We plan for Renee to continue in that role, helping the staff, the Board, and our lay leaders finish what we have started so that CSZ is poised to continue to engage our congregants and grow our membership.

Thank you to Scott Shimberg, my skilled and capable predecessor, for showing me how to lead with elegance and warmth. Thank you to Marc LeVine (and Lisa!) for agreeing to delay his retirement for two more years and to hold my hand during my term as President. I could not do it without Marc's help. He is truly the engine that keeps our vibrant synagogue running smoothly.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year as we continue our sacred partnerships and build on our successes. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions you might have to make Congregation Schaarai Zedek everything you want it to be. ●



## SHOFAR



*A bimonthly newsletter by  
Congregation Schaarai Zedek*

*Read the Shofar online:  
[www.zedek.org/shofar](http://www.zedek.org/shofar)*

Our littlest friends enjoyed a fun day of water play on June 4 - we hope to see you at our next Splash In Shabbat event on July 8!



# Why Is This Student Different from All Other Students?

Rabbi Joel Simon



Joel Simon  
Senior Rabbi

**M**y dad didn't pick me up from school often, but that's only part of the reason why I have such a vivid memory of the spring day during my kindergarten

year when he picked me up early. I walked to the car, so proud to share the bread we had baked in class as part of our lesson on Native American culture. I was chewing as I got into the car, and before I could share how we had made the bread, my dad looked at me in the backseat and said, "Joel, do you remember what we did last night?" As I immediately remembered singing "*Mah Nishtana*" and spending the evening talking about why for seven days we would eat only matzah, my pride quickly turned to shame. Before I could start crying, my dad told me that he had

forgotten about Passover a few years prior and eaten a sandwich at a catered work event before someone asked, "Ron, isn't it Passover?" As my dad humanized the moment, he also lovingly told me that the challenges of being a Jewish minority, even in the most understanding of circumstances, would always be with me.

I was reminded of this story when I saw a notice from my children's elementary school this year that on April 6, the day after our Passover Seder, there would be donuts in the courtyard for all of the kids as they headed into class. I was sure the scheduling had been unintentional, but I sent the school a note. Of course, I said, I didn't expect them to cancel something that had already been publicized, but I wanted to make sure it was considered for similar events in the future. I couldn't have been more pleased with the response. I received a response within minutes that the date had been overlooked, and they were going to add a table with Passover desserts so those students who weren't eating donuts would also be able to have a sweet treat as they headed into school.

The conversation I would have with my first grader and kindergartner was more or less the same - there are going to

be times in which it's hard to be Jewish, times when we see others doing things that we wish we could do. They are occasionally going to have to walk past donuts even though they want one, but the fact that the school made an effort showed an understanding that allowed being part of a minority to be something they could be proud of.

One of the calls I receive most at the beginning of the school year is from parents of students whose teachers or coaches are not showing that same understanding about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The thing is, like the donuts in my children's school courtyard, most of the time, this is an oversight and can be changed or at least adjusted. We have an arrangement with the school district that no major exams or extracurricular activities should be scheduled on Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur, those days are not counted as absences, and there should be no penalty for missing those days, but the best thing is for you or your child to let your teachers/coaches know as early as possible to help them ensure this is the case. (This year, Rosh Hashanah begins the evening of Friday, September 15, and continues Saturday, September 16. Yom Kippur begins the evening of Sunday, September 24, and continues Monday, September 25.)

On Sunday, August 27, at 2 p.m., we are partnering with the Tampa JCCs and Federation to host a panel on being Jewish in school today. We'll also discuss the antisemitism our kids have faced in the schools, how they've been addressed, and what our families can do whenever there is a concern. We'll have representatives of our Jewish Community Relations Council and the Hillsborough School District there to share their experiences and suggestions.

Being Jewish anywhere other than Israel means being part of a minority, and we can't change that. Sometimes being part of a minority has its challenges, but it also has the potential to be extremely empowering and a tremendous source of pride. As we enjoy our summer and prepare for another New Year, I pray that our differences may be openings for understanding, lead us to a strengthened identity, and remind us to give others the same compassion we seek for ourselves in moments when that kindness and understanding are so deeply needed. ●



Nintendo releases its biggest game in years: *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom*. (Courtesy of Nintendo)

# ***The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom - A Triumph of Torah***

Rabbi Michael Weiss



Michael Weiss  
Assistant Rabbi

**N**othing has more staying power than a story. When the Jewish people were at their lowest, divided and conquered, it was the Torah, the narrative of our

people, which brought us all back together, and we read that story over and over, every single year, never experiencing it the same way twice. It is a story that, despite its historical context, speaks to us in our own day, encouraging us to take it to heart and sometimes even to struggle with it, to solve its puzzles and face its challenges. The Torah is a story that I have devoted

my life to reading and telling, and I know most of us feel some sense of commitment to carry on the story.

And most of the time, the works around which we structure our lives are old stories, left in antique books by wise people a long time ago, but we know that we can find meaning in anything that has something to say to us. This is why I'm going to try to share one of my own experiences. I will try to explain why *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom*, the 29th game in a venerable series from Nintendo, has become one of my most treasured Jewish texts.

*The Legend of Zelda* is a series of adventure games that started in 1986 on the Nintendo Entertainment System. The original game was based on Shigeru Miyamoto's experiences exploring the forest, delving into caves, and finding small treasures as a child. It gave the player a map to explore and very little guidance on how to do so. As the main character, Link, players would defeat evil creatures and find new

tools to traverse the world. Most *Zelda* games, as they're called, feature a similar setting and goals. Link has to defeat evil in order to rescue a princess, Zelda. But it is a classic story that manages to renew itself each time through the evolution of how the game works.

The newest installment of the series, *Tears of the Kingdom*, places the player in a very similar situation. A new evil has arisen, the princess is missing, and Link must answer the call to adventure. There is a massive world to explore, about 160 square miles, along with a massive underground cave system and islands floating in the sky. Every piece of the map has small puzzles to solve or new things to discover. I would set a goal for myself and then immediately be drawn off-track to something else and find myself on the other side of the map from where I had planned on being. The scale of the world in the game is Talmudic, a vast expanse of stories to be discovered, sights to be seen, and wisdom to learn. Sometimes we set



ourselves to a purpose in learning or in our community and find something we'd never expected, end up in conversations we'd never have anywhere else, or grow meaningfully close to people in ways that catch us off guard. The adventurous world of the game subtly moves the player towards discovery and growth.

The best part of this game, though, is an innovative game play system that lets the player combine multiple technological and mundane objects together in a huge variety of ways. Let's say that puzzle you're presented with is to cross a large gap. You can just lay out some wooden planks and make a bridge or you can launch a platform over with a catapult or you can build a working helicopter and fly over or an infinite number of other possibilities. Like in Judaism, we are given lots of tools to work with and we can use them to find straightforward solutions to a problem or we can dig a little deeper and find something a little more elegant or satisfying. Most of us are going to have a handful of

Jewish tools we turn to a lot of the time, some we'll use a little more rarely in special circumstances, and some of which we might not touch. I have texts I keep in my back pocket, just like I have a fan-based flying air bike ready to go whenever I'm exploring in the game.

Not to sound like a video game apologist, but I know video games aren't for everyone, but for me and a lot of other folks of all ages, games like *Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom* can be more than a kind of escapism into a "more interesting" world. They can become playgrounds for exploration into deep ideas and philosophy or a place to act out some of our creative impulses in ways impossible in physical reality. If I'm going to spend my time engaging in a world, taking in a story, I need to know that it's going to have some valuable Torah to teach. And the great news is that wherever we look, if we look hard enough, we can always find good Torah. ●

## Upcoming Jewish Holidays

### Tishah B'Av (July 26-27)

A day of mourning the destruction of both ancient Temples in Jerusalem. In modern times, many Jews understand Tishah B'Av as a day to remember many tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people throughout history, and to reflect on the suffering that still occurs in our world.

### Tu B'Av (Aug. 1-2)

A *Chag HaAhava* (Festival of Love) commonly called "Jewish Valentine's Day," Tu B'Av is considered a particularly auspicious day for romance, expressions of love, and even weddings.

### Selichot (Sept. 9)

Selichot, penitential prayers said before the High Holidays, offer us opportunities for personal reflection and to seek forgiveness from those we wronged during the year.

### Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 15-16)

Rosh Hashanah (literally, "Head of the Year") is the Jewish New Year, a time of prayer, self-reflection, and *t'shuvah*.

### Yom Kippur (Sept. 24-25)

Yom Kippur means "Day of Atonement" and refers to the annual Jewish observance of fasting, prayer, and repentance.

### Sukkot (Sept. 29-Oct. 6)

"Sukkot," a Hebrew word meaning "booths" or "huts," refers to the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest. The holiday has also come to commemorate the 40 years of Jewish wandering in the desert after the giving of the Torah atop Mt. Sinai.

### Sh'mini Atzeret & Simchat Torah (Oct. 6-7)

Immediately following Sukkot, we observe Sh'mini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, a fun-filled day during which we celebrate the completion of the annual reading of the Torah and affirm Torah as one of the pillars on which we build our lives. As part of the celebration, the Torah scrolls are taken from the ark and carried or danced around the synagogue seven times.



# Defining and REdefining Community

Com-mu-ni-ty

*noun*

1. a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common: “the scientific community”
2. a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals: “the sense of community that organized religion can provide”

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Lindsey Dewey



Lindsey Dewey  
Director of  
Engagement &  
Outreach

In Judaism, we often speak of a “holy community,” the building of a “*kehillah kedosha*” among members. When new members share with us, “Why Schaarai Zedek...” we often hear about

desires to find families with children of a similar age, hopes to meet people with similar interests who happen to be Jewish, and wants to learn more about our Tampa Bay area with others founded in similar values and a shared belief. Most people affiliating with or staying connected to our congregation do so because they feel connected to our larger Jewish community. While there is immense value in this connection to this larger community, it is time to take this feeling of connectedness

a step further and begin to support and foster deeper community connections.

For years, we have succeeded at building our youth communities that offer emerging young adults a touch-point to their Judaism. Immersive experiences like summer camp and NFTY regional events have fostered and offered shared experiences that bridge existing differences and encourage the development of lifelong relationships. The lessons we have learned from our youth and young adult communities provide a potential recipe for success and a template to build a schedule for shared experiences that transcend our youth and young family communities.

This program year, we are excited to offer continued and developing opportunities for parents of elementary school students with our Parents’ Night Out program, an evening for adults here at the temple with childcare provided on-site, concurrent to the event. Adults with tweens and teens, we are excited to offer a series of learning opportunities covering everything from school choices and guidance discussing tough topics to college selection advice and how to continue raising Jewishly aware emerging adults.

For our active adults and active seniors,

we are excited to share that this fall will debut a menu of programs that includes group hikes, biking meetup opportunities, day trip adventures, museum tours, and perhaps even a few short overnight adventures. We will continue hosting our monthly Senior Luncheons and Game Afternoons while looking to build an even more robust adult community experience. We know that not all the events we will schedule will appeal to everyone. We hope that something we offer will speak to each of you and invite building connections and meeting new people. We know this will, in turn, strengthen our already strong larger congregational community.

As our summer program leads into our fall calendar and the Jewish New Year, our Jewish calendar, religious, and life cycle events remain important touch-points for our membership. Our goal reaches beyond bringing the holy or religious community together just a few times a year. We hope every grouping of people that assembles at Schaarai Zedek feels and finds connection, begins developing relationships with new people, and leaves feeling excited about the next time they will join us in building community! ●

# High Holy Days

We look forward to welcoming our Schaarai Zedek family and guests as we worship together in our sanctuary. Times below are subject to change. We will post updates on [www.zedek.org/HHD](http://www.zedek.org/HHD).

Full details for all services and events, including links and instructions, will be sent via email and postal mail to all Congregation Schaarai Zedek members in early August.

DATE	SERVICE / PROGRAM	TIME
Saturday, September 9, 2023	Selichot Dinner	6:30 PM
	Selichot Program	7:30 PM
	Selichot Service	8:30 PM
Tuesday, September 12, 2023	20s+30s Happy Hour	6:30 PM
Friday, September 15, 2023	Erev Rosh Hashanah Early Service	6:00 PM
	Erev Rosh Hashanah Late Service	8:30 PM
Saturday, September 16, 2023	Rosh Hashanah Early Service	8:30 AM
	Rosh Hashanah Late Service	11:30 AM
	Family Service	2:30 PM
	Baby Blessings	3:30 PM
	Tot Service	3:45 PM
	Tashlikh Service at Ballast Point	5:00 PM
Friday, September 22, 2023	Shabbat Shuvah Service	7:00 PM
Sunday, September 24, 2023	Woodlawn Cemetery Service	9:00 AM
	Myrtle Hill Cemetery Service	10:00 AM
	Kol Nidre Early Service	6:00 PM
	Kol Nidre Late Service	8:30 PM
Monday, September 25, 2023	Yom Kippur Early Service	8:30 AM
	Yom Kippur Late Service	11:30 AM
	Family Service	2:15 PM
	Open Discussion w/ Rabbi Birnholz	2:30 PM
	Tot Service	3:30 PM
	Afternoon Service led by SchZFTY	4:30 PM
	Yizkor Service	5:00 PM
	Neilah Service	5:30 PM
	Break-the-Fast	6:00 PM



Visit [www.zedek.org/HHD](http://www.zedek.org/HHD) for updated information!

# Sisterhood

Beth Levin and Sharon Weiss  
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

**T**he Sisterhood experience is so much richer when we share it with others.

We are thrilled to begin an exciting journey with our new Schaarai Zedek Sisterhood Board. We look forward to introducing ourselves and our Board members to you all through the course of the year.

We are honored to share a little about us with you.

Beth Levin will begin her second year as Sisterhood Co-President, having previously served as the Sisterhood President in her previous congregation in NJ. Beth is currently on the National Board of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) and serves on the WRJ E2A Education to Action committee centered on social action and advocacy. Professionally, Beth has worked in both the corporate and non-profit arenas and has vast client-centric financial, investment, communication, and fundraising

experience. Currently, Beth is a solo entrepreneur at Joyous Again LLC, where she works as a life coach and motivational speaker. Her focus is on helping people overcome challenges, stress, or loss and building resilience.

Sharon Lore Weiss begins her first term as Sisterhood Co-President this year. She has been an active member of Sisterhood since her family's arrival in Tampa in 2019. With 28 years of executive corporate experience in HR, emotional intelligence, consulting, and non-profit pipeline development, Sharon brings a wealth of knowledge to our Board. She chaired the 2022 Franci Golman Rudolph Star Event, is a board member of WRJ, and actively supports both local and national organizations dedicated to making our world a better place.

As your Co-Presidents for 2023-2024, we welcome the opportunity to support and enrich our community by sharing information consistently with a regular cadence; embracing new and current members; honoring past traditions

and creating new ones; and inviting innovation to continue to grow the spark of our dynamic and talented Sisterhood. We offer many opportunities for women to get more involved by attending events and joining one of our programming committees including social, religious, social action, and Star Event.

We invite you to join our Sisterhood. Membership begins at the base Rachel level of \$54. Membership at the Leah level (\$108) or the Sarah Level (\$180) provides additional benefits including special recognition opportunities, exclusive events and experiences, discounts in our Judaica shop, and allows all members to participate in the beauty of Sisterhood.

We hope to see you at an upcoming Sisterhood event. Keep an eye out for our Tuesday emails for more details on our many programs. You can also find more information about our Sisterhood and a listing of upcoming events at [www.zedek.org/sisterhood](http://www.zedek.org/sisterhood).

We look forward to sharing the Sisterhood experience with you. ●

# Brotherhood

**E**very year, Brotherhood tries to build on our prior years of experience to present programs and events which reflect the needs and interests of our congregation and Brotherhood members. This past year has been a full year with great events. Some were highly successful first endeavors, while others returned by popular demand, like Deli Night, with over 200 people in attendance.

We are happy to see the momentum continuing next year with our incoming officers:

- **President - Chuck Goldstein**  
brotherhoodchuck062758@gmail.com
- **Vice President - Robert Applebaum**  
rjapplebaum@gmail.com
- **Secretary - Alex Bourne**  
bourne@mail.usf.edu
- **Treasurer - Ben Gersten**  
bgersten25@gmail.com
- **Immediate Past-President - Marc Holtzberg**  
marc.holtzberg@catalent.com

Over the past decade, Brotherhood has given over \$60,000 to Temple Projects, from the audio-visual equipment in the Social Hall to the enlarged bimah and, notably, the large print Torah. When the Temple asks, Brotherhood answers.

This year, the “ask” was much more significant. Our Brotherhood Board had a friendly yet lively debate on how to best do this. We are proud to report there was never a question whether we would do this for our Temple, only how.

On behalf of the 333 Brotherhood members, Brotherhood officers, and Brotherhood Board, we are proud to announce the following:

**Brotherhood will be a \$25,000 Torah Circle Challenge Giver this year!**

We wish to thank Marc LeVine, Donna Wood, and all our wonderful temple staff for everything they do to support and help make our Brotherhood look good. We appreciate the 18-member Brotherhood Board for their time and support this year. We want to recognize Past-President Steve Gersten for his Herculean efforts in making this year's Deli Night a smooth success; and our Immediate Past-President, Michael Schine, for keeping us organized and on task this year. You see, our Brotherhood is truly a team effort.

Our Brotherhood is a diverse group of Jewish men, and we welcome men of all ages and interests. We are always looking for new Brotherhood members to join our Board. Let one of our above officers know if you have an interest, curiosity, or someone to suggest. We will extend an invitation to join us. ●

# Summer Movie Nights

Let us know you're coming:  
[www.zedek.org/RSVP](http://www.zedek.org/RSVP)

## *Sallah Shabati*

Wednesday, July 12, 5:30 PM

Join us for an enchanting Movie Night featuring the Israeli cult classic, *Sallah Shabati*! Step into the Holy Land as we embark on a cinematic journey through this iconic film.

*Sallah Shabati* (1964) follows the adventures of the eponymous character, a recent Mizrahi immigrant to Israel, as he navigates life in a transit camp and strives to provide a better future for his family. Through his comical and ingenious schemes, the movie cleverly satirizes various aspects of Israeli society, shedding light on the stereotypes surrounding Mizrahim and Kibbutz residents. This film beautifully represents the "Bourekas films" genre, popular from the 1960s to the 1980s, which delved into the complex dynamics between Ashkenazi and Mizrahi Jews in Israel.

The event schedule is as follows:

**5:30 PM:** Enjoy a delightful complimentary dinner to kick off the evening.

**6:30 PM:** Immerse yourself in the captivating movie screening of *Sallah Shabati*, followed by a thought-provoking discussion led by Rabbi Weiss. We'll explore the theme of diversity in the state of Israel, examining both historical and present-day ethnic tensions that continue to shape Israeli society.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to engage with Israeli cinema, learn about cultural diversity, and gain insights into the complexities of Israeli society.



## *Moana*

Saturday, July 22, 5:30 PM

Join us for a community gathering to enjoy the enchanting film, *Moana* (2016). This visually stunning movie takes you on a captivating adventure with Moana, a courageous young woman from a Polynesian island. Together, we will witness her journey as she sets out to restore the heart of the goddess of nature.

*Moana*'s story is filled with themes of bravery, independence, and finding one's purpose in the world. The film's lively soundtrack by Lin-Manuel Miranda adds an extra layer of enjoyment for all ages.

Following the movie screening, we invite you to participate in a family-friendly discussion led by Rabbi Weiss. Together, we will explore the teachings of Jewish tradition and how they relate to the themes presented in *Moana*. Discover the wisdom and insights Judaism offers on finding independence, charting our own paths, and seeking purpose in our lives.

Schedule:

**5:30 PM:** Enjoy a complimentary family-friendly dinner.

**6:30 PM:** Movie Screening, followed by a discussion led by Rabbi Weiss.

This event provides a wonderful opportunity to engage with the film's themes and connect them with our own spiritual journey. We look forward to coming together as a community to enjoy *Moana* and delve into meaningful discussions afterward.



# Amy Gail Buchman Preschool



## July 2023

- July 4: Independence Day / School Closed

## August 2023

- August 2: Last day of Summer Session
- August 3-4: School Closed
- August 7-11: Non-Student Days
- August 14: First Day of School (3- and 5-day students)
- August 15: First Day of School (2-day students)

## Senior Luncheons

**Thursday, July 20, 11:30 AM**

**Guest: Manny Leto, representing Tampa Bay History Center and Save the Berg**

*Urban Removal: Urban Renewal in Ybor City.* While we will touch upon the well-known history of Ybor, our primary focus will be on its “decline” and its current state. The conversation will delve into the impact of historic preservation, gentrification, and interstate expansion, all of which contribute to the ongoing dialogue surrounding Ybor City.

**Thursday, August 17, 11:30 AM**

**BINGO!**

Come and partake in this fantastic event, where you can socialize, mingle, and seize the opportunity to shout out the cherished word, “BINGO!” Rest assured, there will be an abundance of incredible prizes awaiting some lucky players.



*Our Senior Luncheons are provided by the Esther N. & Leo M. Weiss Seniors Endowment Fund*

## Social Action

### July Back-to-School Gift Card Drive

Tampa Jewish Family Services is gearing up to make a difference, and we need your help to make it happen. We're kindly asking for **gift cards to Staples, Office Depot, Walmart, and Target** to fulfill school supply requests. Swing by the temple and drop off your generous gift cards before **July 24**, ensuring students kick off the school year with all they need to thrive. Please let the temple office know these gift cards are exclusively for our Back-to-School collection.

### Chanukah in August

Jump into the early Chanukah excitement with Tampa Jewish Family Services! Help us make the holiday season extra special for our clients by donating **\$10 or \$20 gift cards from Target, Publix, CVS, Ulta, TJ Maxx, and Marshalls**. Drop off your gift cards at the temple office, mentioning they're for Chanukah in August. Let's bring smiles and joy to our Jewish community ahead of time!

### Mitzvah Day - November 5, 2023

Do you have a suggestion for an organization that might like to participate? Would you like to be a team captain? Contact Donna Wood at [dwood@zedek.org](mailto:dwood@zedek.org) or (813) 876-2377 ext. 210

### Caring Community Committee

Become a part of our compassionate community! Are you ready to perform meaningful mitzvahs for individuals and families at Schaarai Zedek? Join our incredible **Caring Community Committee** and make a positive impact! We're assembling a group of caring congregants who are eager to lend a helping hand during moments of joy, illness, and loss. By delivering food, visiting, or even making a simple phone call, you can provide much-needed support. Together, let's make a difference and show that our community truly cares.

**Got questions or itching to get involved in these impactful Social Action Mitzvot? Reach out to Donna Wood at [dwood@zedek.org](mailto:dwood@zedek.org) or give her a call at (813) 876-2377 ext. 210. She'll be thrilled to provide you with all the information you need and help you take part in making a difference. Don't hesitate to reach out and get connected today!**

**10 SHOFAR** July - August, 2023

# Lifecycles

## B'nei Mitzvah

### Eli Majors

Parents: Paul & Cari Majors  
August 5, 2023

### Amelia Merchant

Parents: Heidi Dingfelder & William Merchant  
August 12, 2023

### Ryan Rothschild

Parents: Darren & Michelle Rothschild  
August 19, 2023

### Denah Linderman

Parents: Craig & Bethany Linderman  
August 26, 2023



Eli Majors



Amelia Merchant



Denah Linderman

## Welcome New Members

### Elizabeth Corwin

Trae Cunningham & Raya Schwartz  
Solomon Kravitz & Sheila Saiz

### Douglas & Lauren Shapiro

Joseph Stern  
Michelle Wilson-Levy

## Mazel Tov to Our Members

Foley & Lardner LLP Partner **Mark Wolfson** was honored by the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit and the Hillsborough County Bar Association for his career commitment to pro bono service with the Jimmy Kynes Pro Bono Service Award.

# Flom Religious School

## Flom Religious School Enrolling Now

Attention! The registration period for the upcoming 2023-2024 Religious School year has started! All children who will reach the age of 4 by September 1, 2023, are qualified to enroll. Religious School classes will begin on August 27. To secure a spot, kindly ensure that registration forms reach the Religious School Office by August 7. Please note that any requests for specific classmates may not be accommodated if received after August 7. Register online at [www.zedek.org/religiouschool](http://www.zedek.org/religiouschool).

### Save the Dates:

#### Sunday, August 20 - Religious School Open House

11:30 AM-12 PM: Meet your teacher  
12-1 PM: Lunch with other Religious School families  
RSVP by August 16!

#### Sunday, August 27 - Religious School

9 AM - First Day of Religious School

## Interested in teaching or substituting?

Do you want to further Judaism and enjoy spending time with great children? Then become a teacher or substitute at our Flom Religious School on Sunday mornings! It's easy and fun. We supply the lesson plans and materials for you! Join the team and start making a difference. For more information, contact Debbie Steinfeld at (813) 876-2377, ext. 246, or email [dsteinfeld@zedek.org](mailto:dsteinfeld@zedek.org).

## Gesher L' Mishpachah: Jewish Family Fun

Your family is invited to join in the adventure! Who can participate? First-timers and past participants can all participate! Even if you've completed the program before, the experience comes with a new perspective and understanding with each passing year! What will you do? Each family completes 18 easy activities in the areas of *Torah* (study), *Avodah* (worship), and *G'milut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness) from a list of more than 70 activities during this school year. You have probably already completed these activities without even realizing it! What happens next? After you complete and submit the checklist, you will be honored at a Family Shabbat Service, and your family's name will be engraved on our *Gesher* plaque in the Religious School hallway. Have questions? Contact Debbie Steinfeld at (813) 876-2377, ext. 246, or [dsteinfeld@zedek.org](mailto:dsteinfeld@zedek.org).

# Calendar Highlights

Please visit [www.zedek.org/RSVP](http://www.zedek.org/RSVP) for more information and to register for all events!

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 PM



## Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn

Join Rabbi Weiss for a Zoom session where we explore the world of mussar. Discover Jewish principles, virtues, and ethical insights from *Orchot HaTzadikim* (Paths of the Righteous), a beloved medieval guidebook. Feed your mind and soul with this enlightening midday break.

JULY 8 AT 10 AM & 2 PM



## Splash In Shabbat

Join us for snacks and a fun-filled water play adventure on our playground. Choose the session that suits your family best. At 10 AM, enjoy smaller water features, and from 2-4 PM, larger water play stations will be open.

JULY 19 AT 6 PM



## Popsicles in Hyde Park

Join us for a delightful summer gathering at Hyde Park Village as we indulge in refreshing popsicles by the fountain! All attendees will receive coupons to enjoy a complimentary dessert, celebrating the joyous season of summer! In case of rain, we'll meet at The Hyppo, where we'll continue the festivities.

JULY 25 AT 6:30 PM



## 20s+30s Rays Baseball Game

Join us at the Trop for a Rays Game! More details coming soon!

JULY 27 AT 10 AM



## 7th-12th Grade Summer Fun Day

We'll start at TopGolf, followed by volunteering at Feeding Tampa Bay. Lunch will be provided. Students can earn up to three hours of community service. \$20 per student includes lunch and golfing.

JULY 27 AT 12 PM



## ROMEOLunch Bunch

Topic: Are atheists or agnostics legitimate candidates for conversion to Judaism? Should a humanistic (non-theist) congregation with an HUC-ordained Rabbi be admitted into the URJ?

AUGUST 2 AT 6 PM



## Tu B'Av Dinner and Guest Lecture

Rabbi Lisa Grushcow, editor of *The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality* will join us via Zoom for an insightful discussion. Dinner at 6 PM, followed by the program at 7 PM.

AUGUST 13 AT 9-11 AM



## Back-to-School Bash

Join us at Urban Air New Tampa! Located at 6250 Commerce Palms Dr. in Tampa, FL, this exclusive event is tailored for families with elementary school students and their siblings. From trampolines to climbing walls, enjoy unlimited access to all attractions! All participants must have a waiver on file to enjoy the attractions.

AUGUST 13 AT 5-7 PM



## Back to School Party for Families with Young Children

Bring your little ones aged 5 and under (and their siblings) for an afternoon of fun at Playgrounds of Tampa (4535 S Dale Mabry Hwy). Remember to wear socks and have a current waiver on file with Playgrounds.

AUGUST 25 AT 5 PM



## Taste of CSZ

Enjoy dinner, entertainment, and activities for all ages. Meet representatives from our various groups and auxiliaries. Don't miss out on this lively event! Doors open at 5 PM, followed by Shabbat services at 7 PM.

AUGUST 27 AT 2 PM



## Back-to-School Forum for the Jewish Community

Attention all parents with school-aged children! We invite you to join the Tampa JCCs & Federation and the Tampa Rabbinical Association for a valuable opportunity to acquire skills and strategies to effectively advocate for your Jewish children in public schools. Free babysitting available for elementary students.

THURSDAYS IN AUGUST AT 6 PM



## Treats on the Town

Indulge in frozen treats on us during Treats on the Town! Join us on Thursdays at 6 PM, starting August 17. It's the perfect opportunity to bring your friends and neighbors to learn more about Schaarai Zedek. We're excited to meet you in your neighborhood!

Dates & locations:

- **August 17:** Carrollwood at Tanya and Matt's
- **August 24:** Riverview at Kimi's Ice Cream and Coffees
- **August 31:** Westchase at Whit's Frozen Custard
- **September 7:** Wesley Chapel at Ice Dreammm Shop
- **September 14:** South Tampa at Revolution Ice Cream

JULY 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						9 AM Torah Study 1
2	3	4 Independence Day	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn 5	6 Fast of Tammuz 17	7 PM Shabbat Service 7	9 AM Torah Study 8 10 AM Splash In Shabbat (Littles) 2 PM Splash In Shabbat (Bigs)
9	6:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting 10	11	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn 12 5:30 PM Movie Night	12 PM Lunch & Learn 13	4 PM Allegro Hyde Park Shabbat Service 14 7 PM Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 15
16	17	18	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn 19 6 PM Popsicles in Hyde Park	11:30 AM Senior Luncheon 20	7 PM Shabbat Service 21	9 AM Torah Study 22 5:30 PM Shabbat Movie Night
23	24	6:30 PM 20s+30s Rays Baseball Game 25	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn 26	7th-12th Grade Summer 27 Fun Day 12 PM ROMEOs 1 PM Game Afternoon Tisha B'Av	7 PM Shabbat Service 28	9 AM Torah Study 29
30	6:30 PM Brotherhood Board Meeting 31					

AUGUST 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn 2 6 PM Tu B'Av Dinner and Guest Lecture Tu B'Av	10 AM Sisterhood Board Meeting 3	7 PM Shabbat Service 4	9 AM Torah Study 5 4:30 PM Eli Majors Bar Mitzvah
6	6:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting 7	8	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn 9	12 PM Lunch & Learn 10	4 PM Allegro Hyde Park Shabbat Service 11 7 PM Shabbat Service 8 PM Newly Married/Engaged Couples Dinner	9 AM Torah Study 12 4:30 PM Amelia Merchant Bat Mitzvah
9 AM Back-to-School Bash (Elementary) 5 PM Back-to-School Party for Families with Young Children 13	14	15	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn 16	11:30 AM Senior Luncheon 17 6 PM Treats on the Town (Carrollwood)	7 PM Shabbat Service 18	9 AM Torah Study 19 9:15 AM Shabbat Yoga 10:30 AM Bagel Minyan 4:30 PM Ryan Rothschild Bar Mitzvah 5 PM SchZFTY Event
8 AM Religious School Faculty Orientation 11:30 AM Religious School Open House 20	7 PM Board of Trustees Meeting 21	22	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn 23	12 PM ROMEOs 24 6 PM Treats on the Town (Riverview)	5:30 PM Taste of CSZ 25 7 PM Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 26 4:30 PM Denah Linderman Bat Mitzvah
9 AM Sisterhood & Brotherhood Meet and Greet 9 AM Religious School 2 PM Back-to-School Jewish Community Event 27	6:30 PM Brotherhood Board Meeting 28	29	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn 30 6 PM Sisterhood Event	6 PM Treats on the Town (Whit's Frozen Custard) 31		

# Donations

*It is a common Jewish tradition to make a charitable donation both in times of joy and in times of sorrow. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness, and your support of our congregation. Schaarai Zedek is strengthened by your support, and your gift makes a difference – each and every day. The following gifts were received from April 1 - May 31, 2023.*

## AMY GAIL BUCHMAN PRESCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of Regina Konsker from **Ashley Simon Castro & Jason Castro**  
in memory of Abraham Konsker from **Ashley Simon Castro & Jason Castro**  
in memory of Jack Wolff from **Cookie & Booky Buchman**  
in memory of Albert Saphier from **Jane & Stephen Sergay**  
in memory of Jack Wolff from **Janet & Arthur Simon**  
in memory of Dr. Albert Saphier from **Nadine & Dennis Feldman**  
in memory of Jack C. Wolff from **Rob and Marlene Teitler**

## AMY GAIL BUCHMAN PRESCHOOL FUND

in honor of Eric Newman's Birthday from **Sandra McClain Rogers**  
in honor of Izzy Gobioff's High School Graduation and Sam Gobioff's Middle School Graduation from **Sharon & Bruce Gobioff**  
in memory of Diane Weissman from **Sharon & Bruce Gobioff**

## ASSISTANT RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation for Rabbi Weiss' guidance and support in helping Hailey Michaels to prepare for her Bat Mitzvah from **Tiffani & Matthew Michaels**  
in honor of Lyla Geller's Bat Mitzvah from **Allison & Steve Geller**  
in honor of Tyler Berman's Bar Mitzvah from **Elise & Russell Berman**

## CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation for Cantor Cannizzaro's guidance and support helping Hailey Michaels to prepare for her Bat Mitzvah from **Tiffani & Matthew Michaels**  
in honor of Tyler Berman's Bar Mitzvah from **Elise & Russell Berman**  
in memory of Gilda Atkins, beloved mother of Rosalynne Miller from **Adele & Ralph Ribas**  
in memory of Alan Brandes, nephew of Judith Rosenkranz from **Elaine Stupp**  
in memory of L Bogner Hollander from **Linda Bogner-Norton**  
in memory of Gilda Atkins from **Rosalynne & Arthur Miller**  
in memory of Jack Wolff from **Susan Kessler & Jeffrey Berger**

## DUGLIN FAMILY CAMP COLEMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

in honor of Mark Wolfson receiving award from **Myra & Mark Wolfson**

## FLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND

in memory of Jodi Benke from **Ann Goldman**

## PRAYER BOOK FUND

from **Abigail & Jonathan Katzeff**

## RABBI DAVID L. ZIELONKA CAMP COLEMAN FUND

in honor of the bat mitzvah of Evelyn Strauss from **Paula & Carl Zielonka**  
in memory of Rabbi Frank Sundheim from **Adrienne Sundheim**

## SENIOR RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation for Rabbi Simon for giving the circumcision blessing for our son, Ari from **Lara & Brandon Breslow**  
in appreciation for Rabbi Simon's guidance and support helping Hailey Michaels to prepare for her Bat Mitzvah from **Tiffani & Matthew Michaels**  
in honor of Tyler Berman's Bar Mitzvah from **Elise & Russell Berman**  
in honor of Eve Anton, on the occasion of her Confirmation from **Ron Lasday**  
in memory of Marvin Kahn from **Elaine & Otto Weitzenkorn**  
in memory of Dr. Rachel Permuth from **Jenni Carvalho Salemi**  
in memory of Harry Weiss from **Laureen & Scott Jaffe**  
in memory of Gilda Atkins from **Rosalynne & Arthur Miller**

## SENIORS ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of Tom Marriott, Jack Wolff, and Gilda Atkins from **Amy & Robert Scherzer**

## SISTERHOOD FLORAL FUND

from **Basil Mangra**  
in memory of Hazel C Cohen from **Adele & Ralph Ribas**  
in memory of Sylvia Berlin from **Alicia LeVine**  
in memory of Rena Kushner from **Alyce & David Kushner**  
in memory of Freda Adlin from **Anita & Howard Adlin**  
in memory of Mortimer Goldman from **Ann Goldman**  
in memory of Irvin Plosker from **Anonymous**  
in memory of Al & Belle Janis from **Barbara Rosenthal**  
in memory of Ethel Getzoff from **Barbara Rosenthal**  
in memory of Albert Wagner from **Beth Wagner**  
in memory of Aida H Mack from **Brenda & Warren Mack**  
in memory of Donald Levine from **Cynthia Ferencz & Stuart Levine**  
in memory of Kate Cohn Moore, Max Moore, Frieda Weitzenkorn, & Ruth Weitzenkorn from **Elaine & Otto Weitzenkorn**  
in memory of P Greenberg from **Elaine Greenberg**  
in memory of F. LeVine from **Ellyne Myers**  
in memory of Robert Rabil and Frank Rosen from **Fern Rabil**  
in memory of Sophie Baruc from **Frances Friedman Williams**  
in memory of Barbara M Ingber from **Gail Bernucca**  
in memory of Dick Weinberger from **Gloria Weinberger**  
in memory of Lidia Vatnick from **Ilana & Moshe Ladetzky**  
in memory of Myron Linfield from **Jack Rosenkranz**  
in memory of Louis Ossinsky Jr. from **Jack Rosenkranz**  
in memory of Doris Goldsmith from **Jerilyn & Stu Goldsmith**  
in memory of Leah Marsicano from **Johanna & Sheldon Barat**  
in memory of Molly S Fabricant from **Jolene & Neil Fabricant**  
in memory of Albert Mayer from **June Kraff**  
in memory of Sylvia Berlin from **Lisa & Marc LeVine**  
in memory of Benjamin Greengold from **Liz & Julian Greengold**  
in memory of Lillian Newman, Jon Courson III, and Jon Louis Courson Jr. from **Lyriss & Eric Newman**  
in memory of Julius Newman from **Lyriss & Eric Newman**

in memory of Donald Davis from **Lyris & Eric Newman**  
 in memory of Louis E Weiner from **Lyris & Eric Newman**  
 in memory of Helen Schanfarber from **Lyris & Eric Newman**  
 in memory of Charlotte Fisher from **Marianne Fisher & David Moore**  
 in memory of Ben Farber from **Marilyn & Robert Farber**  
 in memory of Eleanor and Donald from **Nancy & Jeff Seligsohn**  
 in memory of Israel Berman from **Nancy & Peter Berman**  
 in memory of Jay Rudolph from **Richard Rudolph**  
 in memory of Louis Horowitz from **Robin & Scott Katz**  
 in memory of Abe Gersten, Mary Gersten, and Helene Green from **Sandy & Steve Gersten**  
 in memory of Mary Kornblau from **Sara Kornblau & Andrew Medlin**  
 in memory of Sarah Zuckerman from **Sara Kornblau & Andrew Medlin**  
 in memory of David Katt, Ida Katt, and Selma Ginsberg from **Sheila Katt-Beck & Tom Beck**  
 in memory of Milton Saunders from **Stephanie & Alan Saunders**

#### SISTERHOOD PROGRAMS

in honor of Emma's confirmation from **Meg & Gary Moskovitz**  
 in honor of Paula Zielonka's 80th birthday from **Meg & Gary Moskovitz**  
 in honor of Evelyn Straus' Bat Mitzvah from **Meg & Gary Moskovitz**

#### SISTERHOOD SOCIAL ACTION FUND

in honor of Melinda Linsky's graduation from **Laura & Steve Salzer**  
 in memory of Gilda Atkins, mother of Ros Miller from **Diane & Ron Porat**  
 in memory of Betty Zack Jacobs from **Gayle Jacobs Geagan**  
 in memory of Louis Jacobs from **Gayle Jacobs Geagan**

#### SUSTAINING FUND

in memory of Albert Saphier from **Ann & Ronald Rudolph**  
 in memory of Louis Essrig from **Anonymous**  
 in memory of Steven Mellinger from **Diane Tindell**  
 in memory of Mark Puterman from **Grace & Sam Puterman**  
 in memory of Doris Reiner from **Leslie Reiner & Tony Kriseman**  
 in memory of Mollie Pier from **Linda & Evin Netzer**  
 in memory of Jack C Wolff from **Robert Meyer**

Schaarai Zedek offers a variety of donation opportunities so all members can participate in the mitzvah of tzedakah at whatever level is comfortable.  
 For more information about our different funds and various ways to give, please visit: [www.zedek.org/donate](http://www.zedek.org/donate)

RABBI RICHARD J. BIRNHOLZ

*Torah Circle*

A N N U A L G I V I N G

If you would like to contribute to the 2022-2023 Rabbi Richard J. Birnholz Torah Circle, please visit [zedek.org/torahcircle](http://zedek.org/torahcircle). If you have questions about donating, please contact Marc LeVine at [mlevine@zedek.org](mailto:mlevine@zedek.org) or (813) 876-2377 ext. 206.



CONGREGATION SCHAARAI ZEDEK

## Congregation Schaarai Zedek

3303 West Swann Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33609-4643

### TEMPLE OFFICERS

Carla Markowitz, President

David Glickman, VP Membership & Programming

Ellie Probasco, VP Religion, Education, and Youth

Don Weinbren, VP Administration & Building

Charles Weissman, VP Fundraising

Dan Singer, Treasurer

Melinda Sheer, Financial Secretary

Allison Polender, Secretary

Scott Shimberg, Immediate Past President

### CLERGY

Joel Simon, Senior Rabbi

Deborah Cannizzaro, Cantor

Michael Weiss, Assistant Rabbi

Richard J. Birnholz, Rabbi Emeritus

### ADMINISTRATION

Marc LeVine, Executive Director

Donna Wood, Senior Director

Sarah Alexander, Communications Coordinator

Lindsey Dewey, Dir. of Engagement & Outreach

Rosie Grimes, Bookkeeper

Traci Klein, Director of Finance

Naomi Litwak, Director of Youth Programming

Amanda Marks, Event Coordinator

Khan Whiteside, Clergy Executive Assistant

Marty Wittek, Administration

Debra Zepeda, Operations Manager

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Debbie Steinfeld, Religious School Director

Heather Baker, Religious School Assistant

### PRESCHOOL

Lauren Kiernan, Preschool Director

Aida Rozenblum, Assistant Director

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**NFTY-STR**  
**FALL KALLAH!**

**OCTOBER 20-22, 2023**  
**IN TAMPA, FL**

**HOSTED BY**  
**CONGREGATION**  
**SCHAARAI ZEDEK**

We will be looking for host families! More information to come soon!

A Kallah is a weekend long retreat put on by NFTY-STR for 9-12th graders. This is a social event with opportunities for learning, social action and teen leadership. Kallahs are an excellent opportunity for teens to spend time with their friends from Sunday School, other TAs and Jewish teens from all over Florida!