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# SHOFAR

*Schaarai Zedek News*  
*Volume 129*  
*Number 2*  
*September/October, 2025*  
*Elul 5785/Tishrei 5786/*  
*Cheshvan 5786*

## ***High Holy Days Are Here***

*Get ready for a meaningful season of reflection and renewal.*  
*Service schedules, ticketing, and program details inside!*



## 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.

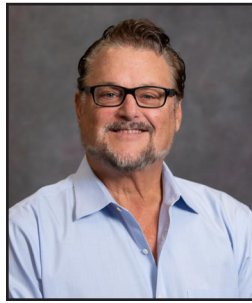
## SHOFAR



*A bimonthly newsletter by  
Congregation Schaarai Zedek*

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

# A Message from the President



Charles Weissman, President

**A**s I begin my term as President, I want to thank our outgoing officers and board of directors.

Our officers leaving are Melinda Sheer, Dan Singer, and David Glickman.

Our terminating board of directors are Caren Katz, Monica Sams, Nicole Seiler, Cindy Spahn, Ann

Rosenback and Alan Weiner. In addition, Scott Shimberg is leaving as Past President. Thank all of you for your time and commitment to Schaarai Zedek.

At the same time, I want to welcome Sam Linsky, VP Fundraising – Debora Bobo, Treasurer – Dana Justis, Financial Secretary and Alex Bourne, VP Administration as our new officers.

Our new board member will be Mark Heller, Jessica Liszt, Jill Newman,

Richard Rudolph, Michael Greene, Saul Rachelson, and Bob Tannenbaum as representatives of the past Presidents Council.

What a great board we have and I'm excited to work with every one of you.

Before we know it, High Holy Days will be here. What a wonderful time of year for the entire congregation. A time for us all to gather and pray for peace, health and happiness.

I know Zoom is a popular option, but I hope everyone makes the effort to come pray in person. It is so amazing to see our sanctuary full.

As we do enter these High Holy Days, we hope you will consider to donate to our Rabbi Richard J Birnholz Torah Circle. These donations help us to continue to present our amazing programming for all.

Thank you all and L'Shanah Tovah! ●



JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL  
MUSICAL SHABBAT  
EXPERIENCE AND MORE WITH  
SINGER-SONGWRITER  
JACOB "SPIKE" KRAUS!

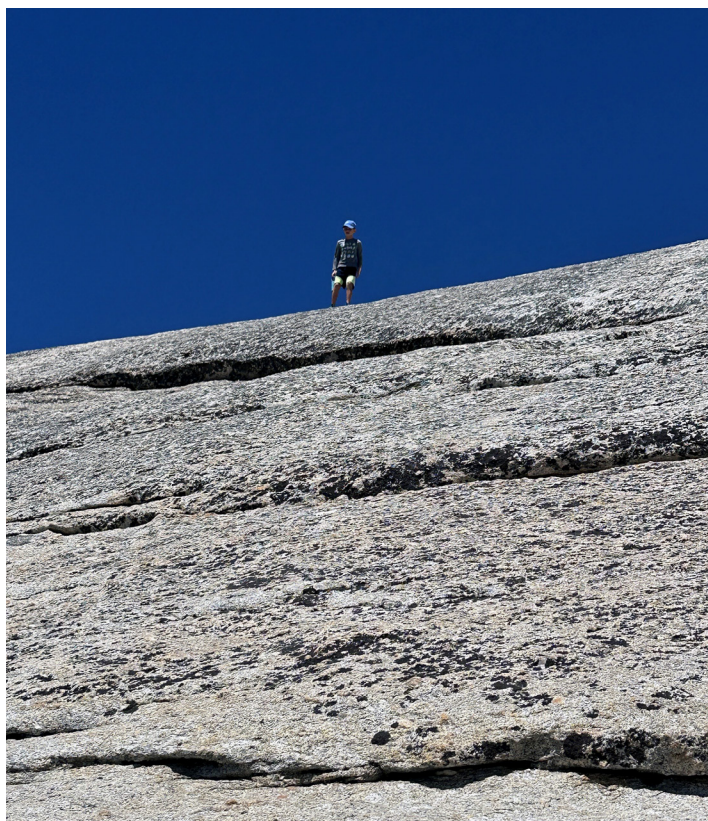
WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
JACOB "FISHY" FISHMAN

# JACOB 'SPIKE' KRAUS

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND  
**SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2025**  
MORE INFO:  
[ZEDEK.ORG/SPIKE](http://ZEDEK.ORG/SPIKE)

SEPT. 5, 7 PM MUSICAL SHABBAT SERVICE	SEPT. 6, 10:30 AM SHABBAT BAGEL MINYAN	SEPT. 6, 6 PM COFFHOUSE CONCERT	SEPT. 7, 9 AM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL EXPERIENCE
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[WWW.ZEDEK.ORG/RSVP](http://WWW.ZEDEK.ORG/RSVP)



# A View from the Mountaintop

After time away, the transition back to daily life mirrors the soul work of Elul and the Days of Awe.

Rabbi Joel Simon

If vacation is “time away from one’s normal routine,” I couldn’t have asked for a better one. After being invited to visit good friends in Lake Tahoe as their son became bar mitzvah, Jacquelyn and I took advantage of the opportunity to show the kids a part of the country neither of us had explored. This led to a road trip that included both Death Valley and Yosemite National Parks. Watching the kids out of their normal element, hiking to the tops of mountains, seeing landscapes like they had never seen before, was truly magical.

But this vacation wasn’t just an escape from the heat (even Death Valley felt comfortable compared to our humid 100 degrees). For the week we were on the West Coast, I mostly stayed away from the news, and to be honest, it was glorious. I didn’t forget what was going on in the world or pretend there weren’t problems, but I had the chance to focus on those problems a little less than usual, taking the concept of vacation to heart on multiple levels.

And then we came home.

In addition to catching up on a week and a half of emails, I found myself more troubled seeing all I had missed in the news at once than I would have been consuming it in real time. I realized that just as nice and necessary as a vacation from reality can be, reentry can be jarring, especially when everything hits you all at once.

Here we find both the opportunity and the risk of the High Holy Days. We are given the chance to step back and reflect on our world and our lives. If we haven’t been checking in regularly, taking stock of our actions and choices, the ways we’ve grown and where we’ve fallen short, trying to do it all in one sitting can feel overwhelming.

Luckily, the Hebrew calendar gives us a transition period my red-eye flight never offered. The month of Elul, which just began on August 25, allows us to ease in. It gives us a month before Rosh HaShanah to begin listening more closely and to start the process of *cheshbon hanefesh*, the accounting of the soul with which we are tasked during the High Holy Days.

Some years, we come into this season ready to reflect. Other years, we arrive already feeling heavy. The world feels broken in so many ways, and it can be hard enough just to get through the day, let alone make time for spiritual inventory. And yet, that’s exactly what makes this season so valuable. It creates space to pause, to catch our breath, to ask what kind of people we want to be—not in spite of what we see in the world, but because of it.

The work of the High Holy Days doesn’t require us to fix the world, or even to fix ourselves. It just asks us to be willing to look, to notice, and to care. When we take even a few moments to “come back from vacation” and really look at our lives, beyond regret, guilt, or the pressure to do better, we can find perspective, beauty, and hope. This makes the High Holy Days that much more meaningful when they arrive.

In fact, it might not be so different from the reward of finishing a difficult hike and finding yourself standing at the edge of a canyon or looking out across a mountaintop and taking in the view. The view of your own life—the full, complicated, admittedly imperfect sweep of it—can be just as awe-inspiring. In a world that can feel overwhelming, that kind of “vacation” might be exactly what we need. ●

**Top Left:** Judd Simon takes in the view from the top of Lembert Dome during the family’s summer adventure out West.

**Top Right:** The Sierra Nevada mountains provided a stunning backdrop during the Simon family’s summer road trip.





# Cleansing Our Soles

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Rabbi Michael Weiss

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**F**or many Jews, the High Holy Days represent an opportunity for a new start, to make up for old mistakes, and to make resolutions for the year to come.

This year, I plan to keep a promise I've made to myself for the past few years, but haven't been able to keep. For Yom Kippur 5786, I plan to finally get myself a pair of white tennis shoes.

While it might seem silly, there's actually a Jewish ritual reason for it. Most know that we fast for the whole day on Yom Kippur, but the rabbis in the Mishnah have other "afflictions" for us, forbidding applying ointments or oils, washing in any way, fulfilling one's spousal duties, and, of course, not wearing shoes.

The Talmud then clarifies that the law is actually to avoid wearing leather shoes which would have been the most comfortable kind of shoe in antiquity. All of these prohibitions seek to deprive us of comfort and luxury. This provides an opportunity for empathy with those who don't have the

same comforts as us and humility as we learn to spend a day with just a little less.

Comfort can be hard to give up though and often we achieve it at the expense of others. Consider the farm laborers barely scraping by who harvest our food and help it find its way to convenient supermarkets. Remember the delivery drivers who bring food and groceries right to our door without job protections or benefits. And think of the underpaid workers, adults or even children, who make our shoes. Unless we're specifically sourcing our clothes from businesses we know are ethical, all of us have something in our wardrobe that has been marred by the curse of greed and inequality.

Jewish tradition understands that all of us are susceptible to our selfish instincts and that seeking comfort has a particularly powerful pull. Most of us know the story of Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his brothers, but a midrash creatively imagines how the brothers used the money. They sell him for the going rate for a working-age male, 20 shekels, which might be a lot if it wasn't being divided

among 10 brothers. According to Midrash Tanchuma, they each had enough to buy a pair of comfy shoes.

In the Haftarah for that very Torah portion, the prophet Amos accuses the Israelites of selling "for silver those whose cause was just and the needy for a pair of shoes." For comfy feet, it seems, people are willing to betray their loved ones and their values.

We cannot worship at the altar of comfort, even if it has a lot of religious adherents these days. Yom Kippur gives us a chance to leave some of our luxuries behind and focus on our spiritual needs. The practice may even inspire us to help others meet their basic needs as well as the creature comforts that we value so highly.

On this coming Day of Atonement, may each of us worry less about what we wear on our feet and more about the kindness and generosity in which we enrobe our hearts. And, if anyone knows the best place to get ethically made and sourced white tennis shoes, send me an email! ●



# Creating HaMakom: More Than Just a Space

Lindsey Dewey  
Director of Engagement & Outreach

**A**s we approach our High Holy days and the turning of our Torah from Deuteronomy back to Genesis, I often find myself recalling the narrative from Genesis, Chapter 28 as Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is present in this place, and I did not know it!” Shaken, he said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the abode of God, and that is the gateway to heaven.”

The word “makom” utilized in this context refers to a specific physical place, yet I believe the intent far transcends a geographic parameter. HaMakom is more than just a place—it’s a community that comes alive through two things: having a space where people can gather, and building real, meaningful connections between those people.

On one level, HaMakom is about the space. Our building, be it our sanctuary, our social hall or our classrooms, provides a tangible meeting point where we begin the work of deepening the meaning of Makom. What matters isn’t so much what it looks like, but that it’s set aside for people to come together. It’s a space where people show up with intention—to connect, to reflect, to celebrate, to grieve, or just to be present with each other.

But just having a space isn’t enough to make a community. What really brings HaMakom to life are the relationships that form within that space. When people show up not just to be in the same room, but to really see and listen to each other, something powerful starts to happen. That’s where connection takes root—in the conversations, the shared meals, the



laughter, the tears, and the sense that you’re not alone.

Recognizing this intersectionality between physical space and intentional relational connection is the foundation from which we attempt to build meaningful opportunities for you, regardless of your age or stage of life.

It takes commitment to building out both opportunities for gathering and fostering connections between those who gather before the benefits of the investment can be felt. This summer, I had an opportunity to visit with two former teens, from very different stages of my career, now working together in Philadelphia to expand Makom Community, a Jewish afterschool opportunity rooted in shared values and placemaking—both for the student in their program and the families connected to their students. It became apparent as I explored their space that the deep investment in ensuring the Jewish spaces being created reflect our history, our present AND our future is a vital necessity to remain relevant to even the most engaged members of any community.

And here’s the thing: community like this doesn’t just magically happen. It takes

intention. It takes people who are willing to create a welcoming space and hold it with care. It takes folks who are open to listening, sharing, being a little vulnerable, and making room for others to do the same. When that happens, something really special unfolds. People don’t just attend—they feel like they belong. They’re not just part of an event—they’re part of something that’s alive.

In a world where a lot of us are feeling disconnected or overwhelmed, I hope our makom, our special place, offers a different way of being together. It reminds us that community isn’t something you find—it’s something you build. When we gather with intention, and care about the people in the room, we’re doing something sacred. While we know we will see many of you as we celebrate Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur followed by Sukkot and Simchat Torah, we hope to see you in many of our smaller settings as well—Game Afternoon, Mahj and More, Movie Matinee’s and beyond to continue fortifying the human connections that make our spaces so holy. We’re creating HaMakom—not just a place, but a people. A community that holds space for everyone to be seen, heard, and connected. ●





## TICKETING INFORMATION

**HARD COPY TICKETS ARE NO LONGER ISSUED.**

Please register online at [zedek.org/HHD](https://zedek.org/HHD) to select the specific High Holy Day services you plan to attend.

**All requests must be received by September 12.**

### Who Receives Complimentary Access:

- **Members in good standing**  
(dues current as of ticket request)
- **Unmarried children under age 26** living locally
- **Immediate family living outside Hillsborough, Pinellas, or Pasco Counties** (please request in advance)
- **Full-time college students**  
(with valid student ID)
- **Full-time enlisted military personnel**
- **Members of out-of-town Reform congregations** with a completed URJ reciprocity form

### Guests & Community Visitors:

- **Out-of-town guests of members** are welcome with a suggested donation
- **First-time visitors** new to the Tampa area may request tickets with a one-time suggested donation, which can be applied toward membership if joining within the same fiscal year

If you are a member and plan to attend services at another congregation, please submit a **Courtesy Seating Request** at [zedek.org/HHD](https://zedek.org/HHD).

### Need Help?

Call (813) 876-2377 or email Sarah Guerra at [sguerra@zedek.org](mailto:sguerra@zedek.org). **Email is preferred during the High Holy Days season due to high call volume.** We appreciate your patience and look forward to assisting you!

## GREETINGS!

As we prepare for the High Holy Days, we look forward to welcoming you, whether in our sanctuary or from home, as we embrace the season's call to **return, reflect, and renew**.

These Days of Awe invite us to pause, reconnect, and set intentions for the year ahead. We encourage you to join us in person if you are able. For those more comfortable at home, services will be available via livestream and public access TV.

Inside this brochure, you'll find everything you need for the holidays: service schedules, ticketing details, and opportunities for spiritual connection. Please visit [zedek.org/HHD](https://zedek.org/HHD) for the most current information.

From all of us at Congregation Schaarai Zedek, we wish you a sweet, healthy, and fulfilling new year.

**L'Shanah Tovah,**

*Congregation Schaarai Zedek*

**6** SHOFAR September - October 2025



# SCHEDULE

- Services marked with an asterisk (\*) will be livestreamed
- Services marked with a caret (^) will also be broadcast on Tampa Bay Community Network
- Visit [zedek.org/HHD](https://zedek.org/HHD) for updated details.

## SELICHOT

### Saturday, September 13, 2025

- 6:30 PM Dinner  
7:30 PM Program and Service\*

## ROSH HASHANAH

### Monday, September 22, 2025

- 6:00 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah Early Service (Contemporary Service)\*^  
8:30 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah Late Service (Contemporary Service)\*

### Tuesday, September 23, 2025

- 8:30 AM Rosh Hashanah Early Service\*  
11:30 AM Rosh Hashanah Late Service\*^  
2:30 PM Family Service (school-age children)\*  
3:45 PM Tot Service (ages 0-5)\*  
4:15 PM Baby Blessings\*

## YOM KIPPUR

### Sunday, September 28, 2025

- 8:00 AM Woodlawn Cemetery Service  
9:00 PM Myrtle Hill Cemetery Service

### Wednesday, October 1, 2025

- 6:00 PM Kol Nidre Early Service\*^  
8:30 PM Kol Nidre Late Service\*

### Thursday, October 2, 2025

- 8:30 AM Yom Kippur Early Service\*  
11:30 AM Yom Kippur Late Service\*^  
2:15 PM Open Discussion with Rabbi Birnholz  
2:30 PM Family Service (school-age children)\*  
3:45 PM Tot Service (ages 0-5)\*  
4:00 PM Healing Service with Cantor Buchman  
4:45 PM Afternoon Service\*^  
5:15 PM Yizkor & Neilah Service\*^  
6:30 PM Break-the-Fast

# CHILDCARE

Childcare (18 months–7 years) is available during select High Holy Day services. Advance registration at [zedek.org/HHD](https://zedek.org/HHD) is required by **September 17** for Rosh Hashanah and **September 26** for Yom Kippur; no drop-ins. Bring labeled diapers, snacks, and drinks to the Amy Gail Buchman Preschool entrance.

# ROLL OF REMEMBRANCE

To honor the memory of your loved ones, we invite you to include their names in our Roll of Remembrance, which is distributed during Yom Kippur's Yizkor service. Please complete the online form by **September 12**. We request a donation of **\$18 per name**. Form and payment options are available at [zedek.org/HHD](https://zedek.org/HHD).

# MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Memorial plaques are a lasting tribute to those we hold dear. Each plaque includes your loved one's name and dates of birth and death. Plaques are illuminated annually on the Yahrzeit and during Yizkor services. Cost per plaque: **\$500**. Orders placed by **September 12**, will be listed in this year's Roll of Remembrance. Physical plaque delivery before Yom Kippur is not guaranteed.

# STREAMING

Whether you're out of town or more comfortable at home, we invite you to join us virtually:

**Schaarai Zedek Website:** [zedek.org/streaming](https://zedek.org/streaming)

**Facebook LIVE:** [facebook.com/CSZtampa](https://facebook.com/CSZtampa)

**YouTube:** [youtube.com/@CongregationSchaaraiZedek](https://youtube.com/@CongregationSchaaraiZedek)

**Public Access Television (Hillsborough County):**

- Frontier Channel 30
- Spectrum Channel 639
- Comcast Channel 20



**CONGREGATION SCHAARAI ZEDEK**  
**NOVEMBER 6, 2025 | EVENING EVENT**



**FEATURING**

*Patti Stanger*



**REALITY TV MATCHMAKER**  
**OWNER & CEO OF MILLIONAIRESCLUB123.COM**

**FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**  
**CONTACT EVENT CHAIR, FAITH ALEXANDER AT NOVALAW97@YAHOO.COM**

## Sisterhood

Get involved, learn more, and join us for upcoming events!

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Karen Shanberg & Sarah Shanberg,  
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

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**W**e had a great start to the year and enjoyed seeing many of you at the WRJ Southeast District Area Gathering and Cantor's Cantorial Event. And we're just getting started!

If you'd like to get more involved or learn more about what Sisterhood is all about, join us on **September 7** for our **Sisterhood Membership Meet & Greet**. Come meet the Sisterhood Board and learn about the fun and meaningful things we do - social, religious, and social action activities and programs. Discover how we raise money to support the synagogue and Flom Religious School, as well as the many donations we make to help our community. We have a full calendar of events throughout the year designed to appeal to women of all ages.

Explore how you can build friendships while enriching your Jewish identity. Learn how our local Sisterhood is supported by the Women of Reform Judaism and how your involvement makes a difference.

**Did you know there are three membership levels for Sisterhood?**

**Rachel Level (\$54):** Our standard membership. We aim to offer engaging programs while keeping fees low so that Sisterhood remains accessible to women of all ages.

**Leah Level (\$108):** Enjoy all Rachel-level benefits *plus*: Reserved priority seating at YES Fund and Star Events; General recognition at events; Extra chances in our prize raffles; A special gift; Provides additional support so all members can participate in the beauty of Sisterhood.

**Sarah Level (\$180):** Enjoy all Rachel and Leah-level benefits *plus*: A voice and vote in selecting which community organizations receive our annual charitable donations.

To join or upgrade your Sisterhood membership, please contact the temple office at (813) 876-2377 or [billing@zedek.org](mailto:billing@zedek.org).

Thank you to all who have already joined - your commitment and participation mean so much.

**Mark your calendars for upcoming events:**

**September 10** – Sisterhood Social

**September 15** – First Book Club Meeting

**September 17** – Religious Program and Social Gathering

**October 21** – 2025 *Sparkle Squad* Social Action Project (details coming soon!)

**November 6** – *Star Event* featuring special guest **Patti Stanger**

Look for more information in our weekly newsletters and Tuesday emails. If you're not receiving them, please contact us so we can make sure you're in the know.

We warmly welcome you to Sisterhood!



# New Year, Same Great Programs!

Keep an eye on your mailbox - new program magnets are on the way! From Yeladim to Jr. SchZFTY, SchZFTY, Chaverim, and 20s+30s, there's something for everyone in our Schaarai Zedek family. Stick your magnet on the fridge and stay in the know all year long. For full event details and to RSVP, visit [www.zedek.org/RSVP](http://www.zedek.org/RSVP).

Our 20s+30s programming is available to all Jewish young adults, 21-39 years old. We welcome anyone and everyone so bring friends and join us for our 2025-2026 programming year!  
Questions? Contact: Naomi Litwak  
[nlitwak@zedek.org](mailto:nlitwak@zedek.org) • 813-876-2377

## 20s+30s

<b>Fri. Aug 15</b> Shabbat Dinner at CSZ following congregational services	<b>Sat. Nov 8</b> Splash In Shabbat	<b>Sat. Mar 7</b> TreeHoppers
<b>Tues. Sept 16</b> High Holy Day Happy Hour	<b>Mon. Nov 17</b> Friendsgiving Game Night	<b>Thurs. Mar 26</b> Pre-Passover Pizza & Pilsners
<b>Thurs. Oct 2</b> Yom Kippur Break Fast	<b>Tues. Dec 16</b> Chanukah Party	<b>Thurs. Apr 2</b> Second Night Seder
<b>Mon. Oct 13</b> Sukkot Dinner	<b>Wed. Jan 21</b> Happy Hour	<b>Sun. Apr 19</b> Mitzvah Day 20s+30s specific project
	<b>Fri. Feb. 6</b> Shabbat Services & Dinner	<b>Tues. May 5</b> Lag B'Omer Cookout
	<b>Sat. Feb. 28</b> Casino Night (everyone 21+)	

Follow Us!  
@20s30sofcsz  
20s+30s Connection

## YELADIM K-2 GRADES

**Sunday Aug. 17**  
Back to School Bash  
@Urban Air Brandon

**Sunday Feb. 8**  
Pottery Painting 1

**Friday Apr. 10**  
End of Year Event

**Sunday Dec. 14**  
Chanukah Extravaganza

**Sunday Nov. 2**  
Yeladim Kickoff

**Sunday Feb. 22**  
Pottery Painting 2

Questions? Contact: Naomi Litwak  
[nlitwak@zedek.org](mailto:nlitwak@zedek.org) • 813-876-2377

## Chaverim 3-5 Grades

**Sun. Aug. 17**  
Back to School Bash  
@Urban Air Brandon

**Sunday, Oct. 12**

**Sunday, Nov. 16**

**Sunday, Feb. 1**

**March 6-7**  
Chaverim Overnight!

**Sunday, Apr. 26**

Questions? Contact: Naomi Litwak  
[nlitwak@zedek.org](mailto:nlitwak@zedek.org) • 813-876-2377

## JR SCHZFTY 6-8 Grades

**Sun. Oct 5**  
Jr. SchZFTY Kickoff

**Wed. Oct. 8**  
Hang Out Night

**Fri. Oct. 10**  
Teen Shabbat

**Wed. Nov. 12**  
Hang Out Night

**Dec. 5-7**  
Offsite Overnight Retreat!

**Fri. Dec. 12**  
Teen Shabbat

**Sun. Jan. 25**  
Busch Gardens

**Wed. Feb 18**  
Hang Out Night

**Sun. Mar 8**  
End of Year Event

**Sun. Apr. 19**  
Pancake Breakfast

**Fri. Apr 24**  
Teen Shabbat

Questions? Contact: Naomi Litwak • [nlitwak@zedek.org](mailto:nlitwak@zedek.org) • 813-876-2377

## SCHZFTY 9-12 GRADES

<b>SATURDAY EVENTS</b>	<b>HANG OUT NIGHTS</b> Wednesdays 6-8pm Dinner Provided	<b>TEEN-LED SHABBAT</b> Join our 8th-12th community on these Friday nights to celebrate Shabbat together
August 23 Kickoff!	September 3	October 10 Simchat Torah
October 25	November 5	December 12 Camp Shabbat
November 15	December 3	April 24 Teen Experiences Shabbat
February 7	January 7	
April 25 Mystery Bus Ride! Open to 8th-12th grades	February 11	
	March 4	
	April 8	
	May 6	

Questions? Contact: Naomi Litwak • [nlitwak@zedek.org](mailto:nlitwak@zedek.org) • 813-876-2377

## SCHZFTY SPECIAL EVENTS 9-12 GRADES

**LIZ LEADERSHIP TEEN INITIATIVE**  
SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2025  
AT URJ CAMP COLEMAN  
Learn about leadership in Judaism through a track of your choice!

**SHUL IN**  
DEC. 12-13, 2025  
AT CFZ  
Spend the night with your friends after our teen-led Shabbat!

**MITZVAH DAY**  
APRIL 19, 2026  
AT CFZ  
Help us make birthday boxes for The Spring Domestic Violence Shelter

**NEW YORK CITY TRIP**  
MARCH 15-18, 2026  
Experience NYC through a cultural and Jewish lens with your CSZ friends

**CAMP JENNY**  
MAY 21-25, 2026  
AT URJ CAMP COLEMAN  
A weekend-long volunteer opportunity working with elementary-aged kids, providing them an opportunity to go to camp!

Questions? Contact: Naomi Litwak  
[nlitwak@zedek.org](mailto:nlitwak@zedek.org) • 813-876-2377

SchZFTY Teens must submit an application to be considered for Camp Jenny.





## Flom Religious School

Debbie Steinfeld,  
Religious School Director

**W**e are thrilled to kick off the 2025-2026 school year and are eager to welcome back our students! Our amazing staff and teachers have been working diligently to ensure a successful and enriching year ahead.

To prepare for the new school year, class assignments will be sent out via email to all families during the week of September 2nd. Please keep an eye on your inbox for this important information.

Our Religious School will begin on Sunday, September 7th, with class running from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. To ensure a smooth start, please plan to arrive with ample time, as we will be conducting security checks with metal detectors at the entrance. We aim for all students to be settled and ready to begin their day promptly at 9:00 AM.

We look forward to a fantastic year filled with learning and growth!

Any questions about Religious School, please reach out to Debbie Steinfeld at [dsteinfeld@zedek.org](mailto:dsteinfeld@zedek.org). ●

### Important Dates:

- **September 5** – Religious School Family Dinner, Open House and Family Services 5:30 – 9:00 pm
- **September 7** – First day of Religious School
- **September 14** – Religious School
- **September 21** – Religious School
- **September 28** – NO SCHOOL
- **October 5** – Religious School
- **October 12** – Religious School
- **October 19** – NO SCHOOL
- **October 26** – Religious School

## Amy Gail Buchman Preschool



### September 2025

- Sept. 1: Labor Day/Non-Student Day
- Sept. 19: Rosh Hashanah Plav during Shabbat
- Sept. 22: Erev Rosh Hashanah Early Closing
- Sept. 23: Rosh Hashanah Holiday/Non-Student Day

### October 2025

- Oct. 1: Kol Nidre Early Closing
- Oct. 2: Yom Kippur Holiday/Non-Student Day
- Oct. 6-10: Book Fair
- Oct. 13-16: School Pictures
- Oct. 17: Noah's Ark Play during Shabbat
- Oct. 17: Teacher Workday Early Closing



# Lifecycles

## NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS (JUNE - JULY 2025)

Melissa & Charlie Feldman  
Jennifer & Daniel Heidenberg  
Nancy Favilla & Michael Kagan  
Stephanie Kassel  
Bonnie & Michael Lurie  
Rachael Kratz  
Ilene & Ted Schwartz  
Rachel & Jared Shimberg  
Sally & Ernest Waxman

# Mazel Tov

## BIRTHS (June - July 2025)

**Maurizio Cruz**  
*Son of Daniela Hogue & Tobias Cruz*  
**Cade Eggnatz**  
*Son of Genna & Adam Eggnatz*  
*Grandson of Laura & Richard Eggnatz*  
**Eli Breslow**  
*Son of Lara & Brandon Breslow*

## IN LOVING MEMORY (JUNE - JULY 2025)

Steven Cohen  
Yael Katz  
Andrea Newman Zazik  
Ronald Rotella  
Rochelle Seiden  
Phyllis Shaw  
David Neal Zielonka

## MAZEL TOV TO OUR B'NEI MITZVAH

**Benjamin Levi Probasco**  
*Parents: Ellie & Joe Probasco*  
September 20, 2025

**Evan Pincus**  
*Parents: Ali & Loren Pincus*  
October 4, 2025

**Ayla Katz**  
*Parents: Jade & Anthony Katz*  
October 11, 2025

**Eliana Kaufman**  
*Parent: Melina Kaufman*  
October 18, 2025

**Jonah Tisdale**  
*Parents: Jody Beck & Ross-Alan Tisdale*  
October 25, 2025

**Ashley Berman**  
*Parents: Elise & Russell Berman*  
October 25, 2025



Ashley Berman



Ayla Katz



Evan Pincus



Eliana Kaufman



Benjamin Levi Probasco



Jonah Beck Tisdale



# Calendar Highlights

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 6 PM



## SchZFTY Hang Out Night

Hang Out Nights are an opportunity for 9th-12th graders to get together once a month for dinner. These evenings have no additional programming and are located in our Kass room. Nintendo Switches, board games and comfy chairs are available for our students to use. Dinner will be catered by Moe's.

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 PM



## Intro to Judaism

The Introduction to Judaism course is a series that covers the essential aspects of the religion, including the nature of Judaism, God, Torah, worship, life cycle observances, and holidays. The course is open to everyone who wants to learn more about Judaism, regardless of their background or level of knowledge. Contact Khan Whiteside at [kwhiteside@zedek.org](mailto:kwhiteside@zedek.org) if you would like to register.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1-3 PM



## Game Afternoon

Gather your friends and bring your favorite game or borrow one of ours for an afternoon of conversation and friendly competition. We will provide light snacks and drinks, tables to play games, and more!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 10 AM



## Teenokot

Bring your little ones to help get your heart and home ready for the Jewish New Year! We will have apples and honey themed snacks as well as crafts and activities to celebrate the birthday of the world.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 12 PM



## Lunch & Learn

When you hear the word "angel," you might picture winged beings or glowing halos, but in Jewish tradition, the reality is quite different. Angels appear throughout the Torah and rabbinic texts as God's messengers, often sparking debate. Are they like us? Are they otherworldly? Or could we be the real angels? Join Rabbi Weiss for a heavenly lunch and a fascinating discussion about the role of angels in Jewish thought and what they can teach us today.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 5:30 PM



## Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbat is an interactive Shabbat experience for families with young children. Learn Shabbat rituals and prayers; light the candles, sing the Kiddush with grape juice, and bless the challah. After the service, enjoy a Shabbat dinner together and time on the playground with other families!

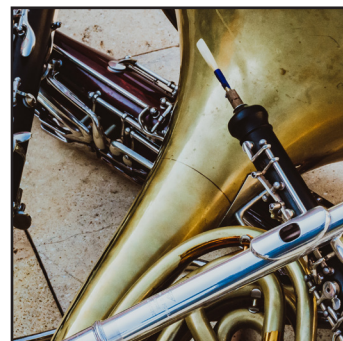
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 11:30 AM



## Senior Luncheon – Thelma

Inspired by director Josh Margolin's real-life grandmother, *Thelma* is a heartwarming and hilarious twist on action films like Mission: Impossible, starring an elderly grandmother as the unexpected hero. With clever nods to the action genre, Margolin infuses the story with humor and heart while exploring themes of aging and independence. Join us to enjoy a complimentary and engaging movie with friends.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 11:30 AM



## Senior Luncheon – Florida Wind Ensemble

Join us for a delicious lunch and warm conversation at our monthly Senior Luncheon! Enjoy a relaxed afternoon of good food, friendly faces, and engaging entertainment. Whether you're a regular or joining us for the first time, this is a wonderful way to connect and catch up with fellow members.

OCTOBER 6-13



## Sukkot at Schaari Zedek

Join us for a joyful week of community, celebration, and tradition under the sukkah. Events will take place throughout the week of Sukkot, beginning the evening of Monday, October 6 through Monday, October 13. From festive meals to family-friendly gatherings and meaningful moments of reflection, there will be opportunities for everyone to connect and celebrate together. Whether you've joined us before or this is your first Sukkot with Schaari Zedek, we look forward to welcoming you. More details available soon at [zedek.org/RSVP](http://zedek.org/RSVP).







# TempleDonations

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 June 1 to July 31, 2025.**

## AMY GAIL BUCHMAN PRESCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND

in honor of the marriage of Miles and Deborrah Buchman from **Cookie & Booky Buchman**  
in honor of Betty Solomon's 100th Birthday from **Judith Rothburd**  
in memory of Amy Gail Buchman from **Janet & Arthur Simon**  
in memory of our daughter, Nicole Kleban from **Janet & Arthur Simon**

## AMY GAIL BUCHMAN PRESCHOOL FUND

in honor of Charles Weissman's installation as president of CSZ from **Lyn, Jill, Emily, & Makayla Meyerson**  
in honor of Leonard Gilbert's retirement from **Lyris & Eric Newman**  
in honor of Charles Weissman, our new Temple President from **Sandra & Errol Pegler**  
in memory of Mary Sue Rothenberg from **Betsy & Gil Singer**  
in memory of Otto Weitzencorn from **Betsy & Gil Singer**  
in memory of Stephen Savitt from **Karen & Michael Linsky**  
in memory of Beryle Solomon Buchman from **Louise & Tom Waldron**  
in memory of Bonnie Lean Solomon from **Marcia & Jack Cohen**  
in memory of Phyllis Shaw from **Sharon & Bruce Gobioff**

## ASSOCIATE RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Connor Port from **Lauren & Lou Port**  
in honor of Evan's Bar Mitzvah from **The Le Family**  
in memory of Julius Dubrow from **Janine & Mike Schwartz**  
in memory of Stephen Savitt from **Nancy Tishler & Doris Tishler**

## BIRNHOLZ EDUCATION FUND

in honor of Betty Solomon celebrating her 100th Birthday from **Paula & Carl Zielonka**

## CANTOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

in honor of Cantor Deborrah Cannizzaro and Mr. Miles Buchman from **Allen Root**  
in honor of the wedding of Cantor and Miles from **Barbara Simmonds**  
in honor of the wedding of Cantor and Miles from **Bonnie Saks & Bradley Minnen**  
in honor of Cantor and Miles' Wedding from **Evelyn Straus**  
in honor of the marriage of Miles and Cantor Deborrah Buchman from **Grace & Sam Puterman**  
in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Connor Port from **Lauren & Lou Port**  
in honor of the marriage of Cantor Cannizzaro and Miles Buchman from **Lyris & Eric Newman**  
in honor of the marriage of Cantor Cannizzaro and Miles Buchman from **Paula & Carl Zielonka**  
in honor of the wedding of Cantor and Miles from **Sharon & Bruce Gobioff**  
in honor of Evan's Bar Mitzvah from **The Le Family**  
in memory of Arthur Sherman from **Nancy Tishler**

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

in honor of Charles Weissman, President of the Board from **Heidi & Scott Shimberg**

## CEMETERY FUND

in memory of Rochelle Seiden from **Marcia Naroditsky & Family**

## ENDOWMENT FUND

in honor of Charles Weissman's Presidency from **Jen & Jeff Pegler**

## FLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

in honor of Sheryl Sherman's retirement from **Elaine & Geoffrey Gross**  
in honor of Lt. Col. Jennifer Sherman on her retirement from the U.S. Air Force from **Lynn Heller**

## FLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND

in memory of Adriane Sundheim from **Annette Ramsey**  
in memory of Larry Kessler from **Annette Ramsey**

## FOOD BANK FUND

in memory of Bonnie Lean Solomon from **Jerilyn & Stuart Goldsmith**

## HIRSCH FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

in honor of Andy Hirsch on the occasion of his 65th birthday from **Andrea, Chris, and Grace Casper**  
in honor of Andy Hirsch's birthday from **Christian Kaufman**  
in honor of Andy Hirsch's birthday from **Denise & Thomas Cassedy**  
in honor of Andy Hirsch's birthday from **John Livingston**  
in honor of my friend Andy Hirsch's 65th birthday from **Keith Walder**  
in honor of Andy Hirsch on his 65th birthday from **Lincoln Tamayo**  
in honor of Andy Hirsch's birthday from **Margot Frumin & Lester Wasserman**  
in honor of Andy Hirsch's 65th birthday from **Susan & Frank Ferreri**

## LILLYAN DEE NEUSNER ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of Ron Rotella from **Mimi Osiason**

## RABBI EMERITUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

in memory of Neil Schwartz from **Janine & Mike Schwartz**  
in memory of Jean F Lasday from **Ron Lasday**  
in memory of Otto Weitzencorn from **Susan Bennett**

## SENIOR RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation for a beautiful and special baby naming ceremony for Genevieve from **Leia Pritzker & Andrew Bagli**  
in honor of Betty Solomon's birthday from **Arlene Greene**  
in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Connor Port from **Lauren & Lou Port**  
in honor of Evan's Bar from **The Le Family**  
in memory of Pearl Dubrow from **Janine & Mike Schwartz**  
in memory of Otto Weitzencorn from **Kerri & Robert Moore**  
in memory of Adele Baydin from **Nancy Tishler**  
in memory of Jean F Lasday from **Ron Lasday**  
in memory of Rose Gobioff, Louis Gobioff, and Albert Zuckerman from **Sharon & Bruce Gobioff**

## SENIORS ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of Herbert Danzig from **Marlene & Clifford Wolf**



**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).**

#### **SISTERHOOD FLORAL FUND**

in honor of Dana Gruman's 60th birthday from **Evelyn Straus**  
in memory of Esther LeVine from **Alicia LeVine**  
in memory of Janet G Root from **Allen Root**  
in memory of Jack Jacques Green from **Ann Goldman**  
in memory of Donald Martin Berkowitz from **Arlene Berkowitz**  
in memory of George Getz from **Barbara Rosenthal**  
in memory of Warren Simmonds from **Barbara Simmonds**  
in memory of Samuel J. Mack from **Brenda & Warren Mack**  
in memory of Charles Louis Cherry from **Carole Cherry**  
in memory of Gussie R Cherry from **Carole Cherry**  
in memory of Howard Spahn from **Cindy Spahn**  
in memory of Bruce Tishler from **Doris Tishler**  
in memory of Faye Chezar from **Elaine & James Payne**  
in memory of Richard Myers from **Ellyne Myers**  
in memory of Francine LeVine from **Ellyne Myers**  
in memory of Anne Simmons from **Faith & Charles Simmons**  
in memory of Ezra I Silver, MD from **Faith & Charles Simmons**  
in memory of Mabelle K Silver from **Faith & Charles Simmons**  
in memory of Nellye Friedman from **Frances Friedman Williams**  
in memory of Max Israelson from **Frances Friedman Williams**  
in memory of Burton Beer from **Jamie Beer**  
in memory of Sidney Gilbert from **Jean & Leonard Gilbert**  
in memory of Marion Roffer from **Jerilyn & Stuart Goldsmith**  
in memory of Neal Crystal from **Jerilyn & Stuart Goldsmith**  
in memory of Sherryl Albert from **Jerilyn & Stuart Goldsmith**  
in memory of Sandra Dreier from **Joy & Gerald Lolli**  
in memory of Albert Mayer from **Junie Kraff**  
in memory of Leo Abraham from **Leigh Ann & Don Weinbren**  
in memory of Sylvia Weinbren from **Leigh Ann & Don Weinbren**  
in memory of Nancy Neiman from **Linda & Evin Netzer**  
in memory of Esther LeVine from **Lisa & Marc LeVine**  
in memory of Jon Courson III and Jon Louis Courson, Jr. from **Lyriss & Eric Newman**  
in memory of Elaine Rogan and Margaret Davis from **Lyriss & Eric Newman**  
in memory of Millard Newman from **Lyriss & Eric Newman**  
in memory of Stanford Newman from **Lyriss & Eric Newman**  
in memory of Jack Israeloff from **Marcia Israeloff & Paul Jacobsen**  
in memory of Dr. Herman K. Moore from **Marianne Fisher & David Moore**  
in memory of Kenneth Osiason from **Mary & Randy Osiason**  
in memory of Jerry Farkas from **Nanci Collier**  
in memory of Donald Oleson from **Nancy & Jeff Seligsohn**  
in memory of Frederic Weiss from **Nancy Weiss**  
in memory of Sheila McCarl from **Robert McCarl**  
in memory of Joshua M Perfit from **Rosemary Perfit**  
in memory of Cilli Gold from **Sandy Gold**  
in memory of Carl Zuckerman from **Sara Kornblau**  
in memory of Mary Miriam Saunders from **Stephanie & Alan Saunders**  
in memory of Helene Kane from **Stephanie & Alan Saunders**  
in memory of John H Alden from **Susan Alden & Robert Hauser**  
in memory of Elizabeth R Alden from **Susan Alden & Robert Hauser**  
in memory of Irving Chalfin from **The Naroditsky Family**  
in memory of Louis Gold and Minnie Glastein from **the Gold and Glastein families**

#### **SISTERHOOD SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

in honor of Dana Gruman's 60th Birthday from **Faith Alexander**  
in memory of Rochelle Seiden from **Michelle & Matt Lyons**

#### **SUSTAINING FUND**

in honor of Betty Solomon's birthday from **Frances Friedman Williams**  
in honor of Evan's Bar Mitzvah and in appreciation for Marc Levine from **The Le Family**  
in memory of William Behrenfeld, father of Craig Behrenfeld and father-in-law of Lisa Rohatiner from **Dana & Eric Gruman**  
in memory of Phyllis Steinhart Butin from **Dana & Eric Gruman**  
in memory of Mary Sue Rothenberg from **Karen & Michael Linsky**  
in memory of Bobbe and George Karpay from **Karen & Sergio Waksman**

RABBI RICHARD J. BIRNHOLZ

*Torah Circle*

ANNUAL GIVING

If you would like to contribute to the  
2024-2025 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**

3303 West Swann Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33609-4643

### **TEMPLE OFFICERS**

Charles Weissman, President

Alex Bourne, VP-Administration & Building

Sam Linsky, VP-Fundraising

Ellie Probasco, VP-Membership & Programming

Don Weinbren, VP-Religion, Education & Youth

Debora Bobo, Treasurer

Dana Justus, Financial Secretary

Allison Polender, Secretary

### **CLERGY**

Joel Simon, Senior Rabbi

Deborah C. Buchman, Cantor

Michael Weiss, Associate Rabbi

Richard J. Birnholz, Rabbi Emeritus

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Marc LeVine, Executive Director

Debra Zepeda, Associate Executive Director

Rosie Grimes, Bookkeeper

Sarah Guerra, Communications Coordinator

Christina Guzman, B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator

Kim Johnson, Operations Coordinator

Traci Klein, Director of Finance

Amanda Marks, Executive Coordinator

Arielle Marlowe, Front Desk Coordinator

Khan Whiteside, Clergy Executive Assistant

### **PROGRAMMING**

Lindsey Dewey, Dir. of Engagement & Outreach

Naomi Litwak, Dir. of Youth Programming

Sarah Smith, Program Coordinator

### **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

Debbie Steinfeld, Religious School Director

Heather Baker, Religious School Assistant

### **PRESCHOOL**

Lauren Kiernan, Preschool Director

Aida Rozenblum, Assistant Director