



**Annual Meeting**  
Rabbi Simon taps into the congregation's vision for the future.  
**Page 3**



**High Holy Days**  
Save the dates for our upcoming holidays!  
**Page 5**



**Brotherhood & Sisterhood**  
Looking forward to upcoming programming.  
**Page 8**

# SHOEFAR

*Schaarai Zedek News*  
*Volume 128*  
*Number 1*  
*July - August, 2024*  
*Sivan - Tamuz - Av, 5784*



Our Active Adults have been having a dilly of a time at Pickletopia! They're always up for a friendly game, and the competition is getting fierce (but always fun). Whether they're dinking or unleashing mighty volleys, they're all having a ball. Pickleball is a great way to stay active, socialize, and relish in some friendly competition. Flip to pages 6-7 to learn more about our Active Adults and other social groups!

## 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)*

# Welcome!



Carla Markowitz  
President

A few months ago, I shared exciting news that Congregation Schaarai Zedek was embarking on a Strategic Planning process.

I am pleased to announce that work is well underway, and we successfully completed the initial Strategic Plan Kickoff Session on March 23, 2024. About 30 congregants attended, including Rabbi Simon and

Marc LeVine representing the Staff Team, and we spent the entire day (!) identifying the 5 focus areas to be addressed by the Strategic Plan:

- Organizational Excellence
- Facility
- Congregant Experience
- Revenue and Finance
- Education and Youth

The Organizational Excellence group will work on assessing CSZ's staffing needs and organizational structure, and ensuring there are clear job and performance roles and metrics for Staff, Clergy, and the Board of Trustees.

The Facility group will identify the current and future facility needs of CSZ and develop a master plan to accommodate those needs.

The Congregant Experience group will focus on the engagement of

our congregants and the community at large through our programming and experiences.

The Revenue and Finance group will focus on ways to diversify revenue at CSZ, as well as creating fiscal practices and policies for fundraising, Torah Circle, Endowment, and long-range planning.

The Education and Youth group will develop opportunities to create educational programming that fosters Jewish identity, retention, and community.

The Strategic Planning Leadership Team selected the group leaders for each of these focus groups, and several groups have already begun their meetings. A congregant survey will also be conducted as part of the strategic planning process. We hope to report the results from those meetings and the survey to the Board of Trustees and the Congregation in Summer 2024.

Thank you again to all of our Strategic Plan Kickoff Session attendees who gave their entire Saturday to this process and thank you to our group leaders and group members who have graciously volunteered to continue this work. Congregation Schaarai Zedek is blessed to have so many skilled and devoted lay leaders. If you're interested in participating there is still plenty of time, so please contact me if have any input you would like to share or if you would like to be in one of the focus groups listed above. ✨



June's Summer Celebration was a hit! We had a fantastic time crafting and connecting with friends.

The fun continues with our Summer Fun Nights on July 20 and August 10 – mark your calendars!



## Rabbi Simon's Remarks from the Annual Meeting

Rabbi Joel Simon

In 1968, Spencer Silver, a researcher at 3M, while attempting to create a new kind of “super strength” adhesive for the aerospace industry failed miserably. He was left with an adhesive so weak that it could barely hold up anything, and it peeled right off without leaving anything behind. While the project was originally deemed a failure, it was six years later that Silver's colleague, Art Fry, remembered the project while trying to find a way to bookmark his hymnal at church, and *voila*, the post it note was born. (As a fun side note, the only color of scrap paper available when Fry created the prototype? - yellow...)

And so it was, 50 years after those original yellow sticky notes were created that 30 of your fellow community members found ourselves each with a pad of sticky notes in front of us, and soon after surrounded by them, as we were each asked to identify what we saw as the congregation's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, and later those things that we thought we should start doing that we weren't currently doing, stop doing that we were, and those things we deemed successful that should continue.

Similar to the Talmudic premise in which even the minority opinions are preserved, every sticky note would be recorded

and viewed as an important viewpoint, but we would be looking for trends in order to find areas of consensus that would become the focus of our strategic plan, first looking at the next year, ultimately giving us focus for the next five years.

We would be challenged to look honestly at ourselves as a congregation, and while, of course, we would find challenges we need to overcome and areas of improvement, it was so heartening to see the way in which these were all rooted in the incredible place in which we find ourselves as a congregation. In other words, our weaknesses were almost always a product of our strengths.

Each sticky note seemed to be interconnected to all of the others. As the room became covered in different colors (we went far beyond the original yellow), we saw an immense appreciation for our programming which spans the generations and recognition and praise for the incredible staff and clergy that create and support it. And even as we questioned which demographics we might still be missing, there was an accompanying recognition of how hard everyone is working, leading us to see the need to look at our organizational structure and what changes would be needed to do the things we want to start and continue doing. The same questions will be asked of our facility, leading to the inevitable question of what sustainable

funding would be needed in order to support any suggested growth. And lastly, while we learned so much during Covid and were primed like few others to thrive as a congregation through those challenges, we also were left in a different world and need to look at how we are reaching congregants of all ages, including our responsibility to create our next generation of Jews in this new world.

There were some lighter moments - we avoided diving too deep into whether our challah should come from Publix or a different bakery - but perhaps the highlight of the day came in the form of one sticky note found on the “continue” page - “May Congregation Schaarai Zedek continue forever.”

Friends, this Fall we will celebrate our congregation's 130th birthday, and as we do, we can be so proud of who we are. We honor our builders and the visionaries who have guided us over the years. How special is it to have the Zielonkas here tonight along with Dan Singer, Rabbi Sundheim's grandson, and of course, Rabbi Birnholz and Donna? How many congregations can say that three generations of rabbinic leadership, spanning 94 years, are still present and active within the community? We honor our present and the incredible team of people who are devoting their lives

*Continued on back page*



The moldy meat of a dead poisonous snake was cited in one recipe of gu.

# The Deadliest Poison

## Navigating a Toxic World: Lessons from Myth and Torah on Resisting the Poison of Hate

---

Rabbi Michael Weiss

---

**T**here's a kind of Chinese black magic I've read about called "gu." In short, the premise of the ritual is that you put multiple poisonous animals (snakes, scorpions, centipedes, etc.) in a jar, where inevitably, they will fight to the death and consume each other. The last creature alive is thought to have concentrated all of the toxins in itself, creating a far more powerful and deadly poison called gu. Now, scholars have suggested that the rumors of this poison functioned similarly to rumors of witchcraft in many western societies, as a way to oppress ethnic minorities and women. But the anxiety of toxicity amplifying toxicity is one that I think speaks to the world in which we live.

This is a toxic time, partly due to a legacy media and social media landscape that incentivizes conflict and strong negative feelings as a way of generating ad revenue, but also because of an extreme rise in hatreds of all varieties, antisemitism in particular. There are so many ways that

being hated can change us. It can instill fear, pride, anger, despair, or hopelessness. Each of us is going to respond to the moment differently, but there is one path forward of which we should be especially wary: absorbing the poison and becoming hateful ourselves.

There's something cathartic about hating. From so many movies and news clips, we can see in our minds the image of crowds frothing at the idea of an "other," someone else who is the root of their problems. This fear of the other seems built into us, and there are certainly those who are willing to take advantage of it for power or other benefits. I can't, however, say that Judaism tells us bar none to not hate our enemy or someone who hates us. We are told to blot out the name of Amalek. We are told that when someone tries to kill you, rise up and strike first. But the first chapter of the Torah tells us all we need to really know: all humanity is made in the image of God, and there is nothing more precious than human life.

For the mythical gu, its deadliness can only increase as the creatures kill

and consume each other. But in the Babylonian Talmud, in Yoma 72b, the rabbis teach us that the Torah can be both an elixir of life or a deadly poison. Depending on how we choose to use and read it, the Torah can help us honor life and its incredible potential, or it can become a tool by which we justify our hate of the other, close ourselves off, and return to the ghetto by our own hands. The great Rabbi Hillel teaches that in a place where no one is behaving like a human, we must strive to be humane. We may be in that jar right now, surrounded by venomous creatures, and while we have the imperative to survive, we also cannot let it change us by replacing our capacity to love with something darker and more hateful. There will come a time when the fighting and hate will end. Let us ensure that we emerge with our scars reminding us that the empathy and kindness at the root of Torah are our greatest tool in fulfilling the purpose that God gave to us, to be *rodfei shalom*, passionate and ceaseless pursuers of peace. ✨

# 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
Tuesday, September 24, 2024	20s+30s High Holy Days Happy Hour	6:30 PM
Saturday, September 28, 2024	Selichot Dinner	6:30 PM
	Selichot Program*	7:30 PM
	Selichot Service*	8:30 PM
Sunday, September 29, 2024	Reverse Tashlich (Ballast Point)	9:00 AM
Wednesday, October 2, 2024	Erev Rosh Hashanah Early Service*†	6:00 PM
	Erev Rosh Hashanah Late Service*†	8:30 PM
Thursday, October 3, 2024	Rosh Hashanah Early Service*†	8:30 AM
	Rosh Hashanah Late Service*†	11:30 AM
	Family Service*	2:30 PM
	Tot Service*	3:45 PM
	Baby Blessings*	4:15 PM
	Tashlich Service (Ballast Point)	5:00 PM
Friday, October 4, 2024	Shabbat Shuvah Service*†	7:00 PM
Sunday, October 6, 2024	Woodlawn Cemetery Service	9:00 AM
	Myrtle Hill Cemetery Service	10:00 AM
Friday, October 11, 2024	Kol Nidre Early Service*†	6:00 PM
	Kol Nidre Late Service*†	8:30 PM
Saturday, October 12, 2024	Yom Kippur Early Service*†	8:30 AM
	Yom Kippur Late Service*†	11:30 AM
	Open Discussion with Rabbi Birnholz	2:15 PM
	Family Service*	2:30 PM
	Tot Service*	3:45 PM
	Healing Service with Cantor Cannizzaro	4:00 PM
	Afternoon Service*†	4:45 PM
	Yizkor & Neilah Service*†	5:15 PM
	Break-the-Fast	6:30 PM
	20s+30s Break-the-Fast	6:30 PM
October 16 - 23, 2024	Sukkot: Watch for details about celebrating with CSZ!	Varies
Friday, October 25, 2024	Simchat Torah Shabbat Service with Teen Band*†	7 PM

\* Live-streamed † Airing on Tampa Bay Community Network



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



# Finding Home: Reflections on Reunion and Connection

Lindsey Dewey  
Director of Engagement & Outreach

**“W**elcome Home!”—An exclamation of joy between friends and family upon reunification and arrival. Generational celebrations unfold at airport gates with signs and balloons, children running to adults or partners meeting in embrace. Packed cars, laden to the top, ferry 20-somethings back to childhood homes from semesters and adventures. Recollecting your last “Welcome Home!” moment is likely not difficult. It matters little whether you are the party doing the welcoming or being welcomed; the surge of positive energy in that moment is undeniable.

As we approach this time of the year, I contemplate all the places I have called “home” and the people who have rendered those places meaningful.

Earlier this summer, I spent a weekend in St. Louis with my dad and Lawton, my son. Though I graduated from high school in St. Louis, I have never truly considered the area ‘home.’ We moved when I was in 9th grade, and after graduation, I found myself returning only to see family for

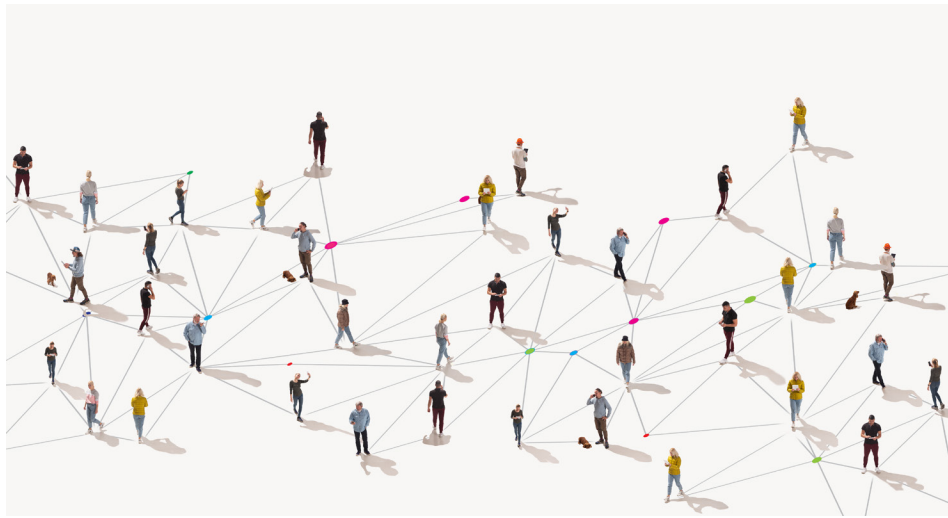
brief spells. It was more common for us to convene in other cities for family events or vacations. Driving around town, essentially a tourist in a city my family has resided in for the better part of 30 years, it became apparent how deeply my time in St. Louis altered the trajectory of my life and career.

The drive from point A to point B conjured memories—not of grand life events, but of the parking lot on the corner where four teenagers sang Indigo Girls’ “Get Out the Map,” or the movie theater where Thanksgiving Breaks were filled with Harry Potter movie marathons. A mom-and-pop Italian place where we ‘broke Passover’ as a youth group, or a Target where we once searched for Jack-in-the-Box antennae balls (all the rage between 1998 and 2000) after Shabbat Services. It may not have been my ‘home’ for long, but the way I felt after three years away certainly made me realize the connections with people and deeply impactful life experiences that helped St. Louis feel more like home.

The summer months usher in a stream of visitors to the temple. College students and young adults fly in for

quick visits—a summer between semesters, a pit-stop before “what’s next,” or a journey to find their first or next adult ‘home.’ After 15 years at Schaarai Zedek, there are generations of young adults who walk through our doors, and my instinctual greeting is always “Welcome Home!” The connections and foundational development within our congregational walls have forged bonds for these adults, who find meaning in returning to Schaarai Zedek when they come back to Tampa. As we embark on the first steps of our Strategic Planning, we recognize the power of these connections and the generational impacts for our congregational community. Of paramount importance, and one of my primary goals for all our congregants, is to find a point of connection and to feel that sense of positivity and joy when you walk through our doors.

Whether it is for the first time this week or the first time in months, I eagerly anticipate seeing you at an upcoming event at CSZ, and I hope you will share with me the ways we currently make CSZ feel like home. ✨



# Cultivating Jewish Connections at Every Stage

Naomi Litwak  
Director of Youth Programming

Spit, BS, Mario Kart, Picto-Chat, Iron Chef, 4 Sprites, and a Diet Coke. These words defined Litwak/Burack summer vacations. Five kids sprawled out with countless decks of cards while four parents enjoyed good food and wine. For the Litwak and Burack families, summer vacations are a cornerstone of family life. Whether meeting in Hilton Head Island, Colorado, the Grand Canyon, or Israel, my sisters and I eagerly awaited vacations with our best family friends.

Although our joint vacations have become less frequent as we've reached our 20s, the times we do get together are filled with reminiscing. Our recent trip to Disney World included Marissa asking all three Litwak girls to be bridesmaids in her wedding. Twenty years of friendship have created genuine connections, highlighting the joy in providing opportunities for our congregants, of any age, to find their people.

We first met the Buracks through our Jewish community when my parents moved to Albany, N.Y. Within six years, Deborah, Alan, Scott, and Cheryl grew from four adults in their 20s to parents in their 30s, each with two kids. In 2002, with a four-year-old and a two-year-old, my parents moved to Miami, prioritizing our connection with the Buracks by vacationing together.

Reflecting on Schaarai Zedek's upcoming programming, I see our family's journey

mirrored in each stage. Our 20s+30s Connection offers young professionals a cohort of Jewish friends and colleagues. This group celebrates momentous life cycles, like marriage and parenthood.

Our renewed Teenokot program, led by Program Coordinator Sarah Smith, serves families with little ones, ages 0-3, and will meet monthly on Thursday mornings beginning in August. We're excited for Sarah to bring new ideas to Teenokot and continue our Tot Shabbat services.

As our CSZ kids grow, they can engage through Primary Shabbat (K-2nd grade), Youth Group (K-12th grade), and Religious School (PreK-12th grade). Primary Shabbat introduces kids to services in a kid-friendly environment. Youth groups for K-12 allow kids to bond with peers. Parents can also connect through Grade Level Brunches for grades 3-6, beginning in December. These Sunday mornings offer parents with same-aged children a chance to get to know each other. Our new Madrichim program for 10th-12th graders provides older teens with community service, leadership skills, and bonding opportunities.

Our goal at Congregation Schaarai Zedek is to create a safe, welcoming, and engaging community where congregants find joy, support, and meaningful connections. My relationship with the Buracks, rooted in our Jewish community, inspires me to help others find similar connections for themselves and their families. I look forward to the year ahead with all of you! ✨

## Community at CSZ

Looking to connect with others and explore your Jewish identity? Schaarai Zedek offers a vibrant community with something for everyone! Whether you're a young family with infants, a social young adult, an active senior, or someone in between, we have groups and activities designed to engage your interests. Make new friends, learn and grow, or give back to the community – the possibilities are endless! For more information or questions about our programming, contact Lindsey Dewey at [ldewey@zedek.org](mailto:ldewey@zedek.org) or ext. 221.

### Youth Groups

Schaarai Zedek Youth Groups offer a variety of programs and activities designed to engage Jewish youth in social, religious, cultural, and community service activities.

- **Teenokot:** Programs for children 0-5 and their caregivers.
- **Yeledim (K – 2nd Grade):** Introduces children to youth group.
- **Chaverim (3rd – 5th Grades):** Develops social and Judaic connections.
- **Jr. SchZFTY (6th – 8th Grades):** Social, community service, religion and culture, and more!
- **SchZFTY (9th – 12th Grades):** Several programs per month focusing on social, educational, Judaic programming and community service.

### Adult Social Groups

- **20s+30s Connection:** Open to all Tampa Bay Jewish young adults, including singles, couples, and partners. Join for social events and activities.
- **Active Adults:** Offers programs and activities designed to help adults learn, grow, and connect with others. Explore local museums, play pickleball, attend shows, hike, or many other options!
- **Seniors:** Provides a vibrant calendar of social, religious, and cultural activities for seniors. Enjoy monthly luncheons with guest speakers, day trips, and more!
- **Brotherhood:** A men's organization that blends fun with temple service. Network, explore, and celebrate through study, worship, and service in a welcoming and supportive environment.
- **Sisterhood:** Empowers women of all ages with opportunities for personal growth, intellectual pursuits, community service, and leadership development.

# Sisterhood

Dana Gruman & Sharon Weiss  
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

**T**radition. Tradition is one of the distinct reasons the Sisterhood at Congregation Schaarai Zedek has thrived for 128 years. Can Schaarai Zedek survive without Sisterhood? You bet it can. But our congregation is better because the Sisterhood is strong and has a visible presence.

On the traditional side, we have provided bimah flowers for a century. The Sisterhood Floral Fund helps defray the cost of the flowers for many of our services. Another Sisterhood tradition is our tax-free Judaica Shop, which has been a one-stop shop for *yads*, *mezuzot*, *tallitot*, and jewelry for over five decades! Our current inventory is beautiful; visit us on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, or during Religious School.

And who doesn't love our made-from-scratch Hamantaschen? Sisterhood will bake again in the winter. If you haven't helped us before, join us this year for a truly fun tradition!

In this century, Sisterhood has hosted meaningful social action projects that are inclusive, family-friendly, and focused on helping charitable entities in the local and wider Jewish community. In 2020, we set



YES Luncheon 2024; (from left) Barbara Shine Hicks, Diane Porat and Megan Hernandez

We are also known for our social events, which range from religious-themed gatherings to membership events to purely social gatherings. We have an exciting lineup of opportunities to reconnect with friends and meet new ones starting in September. On September 4, Sisterhood will host a flower arranging workshop at the temple under the tutelage of The Roaming Petal. This event is not restricted to Sisterhood members! Please join us to kick off our fall schedule.

On the first day of Religious School, September 8, stop by the Sisterhood Meeting Room and Social Hall for bagels and coffee. Our Meet and Greet, in conjunction with Brotherhood, is the perfect place to rejoin Sisterhood and get a preview of our activities for the rest of the year. This is a casual and laid-back opportunity to visit



Opening Event 2023; (from left) Beth Levin and Fern Rabil

with friends! On September 25, we will usher in the High Holy Days with a delicious meal and a Rosh Hashanah project.

Another traditional but crucial aspect of Sisterhood is that it is volunteer-run, with generous logistical assistance from the temple staff. But we depend on you to make us stronger. This year's Sisterhood board is experienced, engaged, and enthusiastic. We appreciate the dedication and expertise of the many volunteers who help us. If you would like to get involved in Sisterhood, reach out and bring a friend, too. Do not hesitate to drop us an email at [sisterhood@zedek.org](mailto:sisterhood@zedek.org). ☆

---

# Brotherhood

Robert Applebaum, Brotherhood President

**A**s we come to the end of the fiscal year and enter the summer season, it is nice to reflect on the great year we have had. As a Brotherhood, we held events and activities throughout the Tampa Bay region. We made new friendships, supported local businesses, donated to charitable organizations, and volunteered our time in service to others. All year, I have been surrounded by wonderful people, and I could not be prouder to call myself a "Brother" at Congregation Schaarai Zedek.

For our final event of the year, we took over the courts at Shuffle in Seminole

Heights. I personally played shuffleboard for the first time and have to say that it is a very fun game. We ate great food, had a drink or two, and enjoyed some friendly competition. I highly encourage everyone to come out for this event next time. We will certainly be doing it again.

The Brotherhood Board will be taking a break from meetings over the summer for some much-needed rest and relaxation before convening again in the early fall to prepare for the 2024-2025 year. As you prepare your calendars for next year, please note that the Brotherhood/Sisterhood meet and greet is currently scheduled for Sunday, September 8, at 9 AM. The Brotherhood kick-off event will

be in September and will be an awesome time as usual. Please check your Brotherhood email updates for dates and times of events to be announced.

Finally, please remember to check the box in your ShulCloud account to pay your Brotherhood membership dues. Your support allows us to continue to have great programming and to continue to make charitable donations to great organizations locally, nationally, and internationally.

As always, my sincerest gratitude to all of you for your support of the Brotherhood. We love what we do and will continue to work hard to provide great programming for everyone. Have a wonderful summer! ☆



# MOVIE NIGHTS

FREE ENTRY



Join us for our Summer Movie Night Series! Enjoy a free dinner and a movie, complete with popcorn and treats. After each film, stay for engaging discussions about the movie. It's the perfect way to spend summer evenings with friends and family.

## Summer Movie Nights

- **Saturday, July 13, 6 PM**  
*The Mitchells vs. the Machines:*  
A fun adventure about a family and a tech uprising. Join us for laughs, heartwarming moments, and a talk with Rabbi Weiss - maybe we can all agree on some screen time limits!
- **Wednesday, July 25, 6 PM**  
*Past Lives:*  
This film explores a childhood love story interrupted by immigration, forcing the characters to confront the weight of "what ifs." Rabbi Weiss will lead a discussion on relationships, identity, and the power of the past. Don't miss it!
- **Thursday, August 8, 6 PM**  
*The Peanut Butter Falcon:*  
A heartwarming coming-of-age tale about a young man with Down syndrome chasing his dreams. Inspired by the film's message and a local hero, Bruce Rosen, a Tampa resident, will share his own story of defying expectations. Join us for an inspiring evening!

# JOIN THE KOLEINU CHOIR



## Calling all Singing Superstars

Know how to read music? Koleinu Choir is on the hunt for new voices to join our crew! We don't just sing, we create pure musical magic that fills the soul. Plus, choir life comes with some pretty sweet perks:

- **VIP Seating for High Holy Days:** Ditch the pew scramble and snag a front-row seat
- **Prayer Powerhouse:** Level up your understanding of services and impress everyone with your newfound knowledge (prayer trivia night, anyone?)
- **Friend Frenzy:** Make a whole new squad of awesome people who love to belt it out just as much as you

So, ditch the shower solos and join the coolest choir around! High Holy Day rehearsals begin in August, so come raise your voice and make some beautiful noise with us! Contact Cantor Cannizzaro for more information.

# Amy Gail Buchman Preschool



## July 2024

- July 4-5: Independence Day Observance\*

## August 2024

- August 2: Last day of Summer Session\*\*
- August 5: No School\*
- August 6-12: Teacher Workweek\*
- August 13: First Day of School

\* Indicates school is closed / \*\* Indicates school is closing early

## Senior Luncheons

Thursday, July 18, 11:30 AM

We're excited to welcome **Laurence Francis**, a top performer and magical mentalist, to our July Senior Luncheon. Originally from the UK and now residing in Florida, Francis will take us on a fun-filled journey exploring the hidden power and untapped potential of the human mind. His engaging performance style makes him one of the Sunshine State's most sought-after mystery performers.

Thursday, August 15, 11:30 AM

Get ready to discover our **trivia champions!** Whether you're a fan of Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, or Family Feud, this professional trivia game host is bringing all the excitement of a TV production to our event. Join us as we form teams, cheer each other on, and laugh while we learn together! It's going to be an unforgettable night of fun and friendly competition.



*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 26, 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! The drop-off deadline is August 31.

## JOIN OUR CARING COMMUNITY

The Caring Community is a group of congregants who are dedicated to providing support and compassion to their fellow members. We offer a variety of outreach services, including phone calls, cards, and visits.

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in making a difference in the lives of others. Whether you can commit to a one-time project or an ongoing commitment, your time and energy are greatly appreciated.

**More Information : Contact Rabbi Weiss**

 (813) 876-2377, ext. 229  [mweiss@zedek.org](mailto:mweiss@zedek.org)

*Got questions or itching to get involved in these impactful Social Action Mitzvot? Reach out to Amanda Marks at [amarks@zedek.org](mailto:amarks@zedek.org) or give her a call at (813) 876-2377 ext. 250. 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!*

# Lifecycles

## B'nei Mitzvah

### Jessica Weiss

Parents: Sharon & Alan Weiss  
August 3, 2024

### Mallory Bishko

Parents: Nicole & Jack Bishko  
August 10, 2024

### Jacob Kamish

Parents: Amy & Zachary Kamish  
August 17, 2024

### Brenna Borio

Parents: Lauren & Russell Borio  
August 24, 2024



Jacob Kamish

## Welcome New Members

Emily & Tyler Casciola  
Silvian Ene  
Cynthia Goldstein  
Lily & Edward Landry

Ann Lippman  
Alan & Melissa Mordokowicz  
Stephanie & Andrew Soss



Jessica Weiss

At our Family Passover Brunch, we shared stories, laughter, and the joy of freedom with the next generation.

# Flom Religious School

Debbie Steinfeld, Religious School Director

Registration for Religious School is now available! Ensure to enroll your child by August 15. Simply visit [zedek.org](http://zedek.org), click on Flom Religious School, and follow the instructions to register.

We're thrilled to announce our new Madrichim program! High schoolers in grades 10 through 12 are invited to join. This program expands upon our current TA program to better meet the needs of our students and allow them to contribute significantly to our Religious School. Madrichim are required to enroll in Religious School, though they won't incur any fees.

### Important Dates:

- August 15 – Registration deadline
- September 6 – Religious School Family Dinner, Open House, and Family Services
- September 8 – First day of Religious School

### Are you interested in teaching next year?

We're in need of additional teachers! If you're passionate about Judaism and enjoy spending time with wonderful children, consider becoming a teacher or substitute teacher at our Flom Religious School on Sunday mornings. It's both easy and enjoyable, as we provide lesson plans and materials for you. Join our team and start making a meaningful difference. For more details, please contact me at (813) 876-2377, extension 246, or email [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!

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 5:30 PM



## Independence Day Sha'BBQ

Get your holiday weekend off to a fun start with Schaarai Zedek! Join us for a complimentary Shabbat BBQ dinner, followed by a casual Shabbat service. This relaxed evening will be fun for the entire family!

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 12 PM



## Lunch & Learn

Join Rabbi Weiss to explore the life of Moses Maimonides (Rambam), the renowned 12th-century Jewish scholar, philosopher, and physician. Discover his influential works in Jewish law and philosophy, his contributions to a golden age of learning, and the personal tragedies that shaped his legacy.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 6 PM



## Popsicles in the Park

Join us at Hyde Park Village for a sweet summer celebration! Enjoy a free dessert with our coupons. Rain or shine, we'll be by the fountain if sunny or under the Hyppo Pops awning if it rains. Bring your friends and family!

SATURDAY, JULY 20



## Water Wonderland Tot Shabbat

- **10:30 AM (Non/Unsteady Walkers):** Morning water play on the playground with bagels, coffee, and snacks.
- **3:30 PM (Walkers/Speedy Runners):** Afternoon water play with larger water stations and frozen treats.

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 6 PM



## Summer Fun Night

Join us for a fun summer night with MUSIC Bingo, hosted by Events Done Right! Enjoy DJ-hosted music bingo, exciting prizes, and a delicious dinner and dessert. Perfect for families with elementary school-aged kids and older.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 12 PM



## Lunch & Learn

Join Rabbi Simon for a lunchtime exploration of Jewish ritual garb! We'll delve into the symbolism and meaning behind *kippot* (yarmulkes), *tallit* (prayer shawls), and *tfillin* (phylacteries), exploring their basis in Jewish texts and their historical significance.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 6 PM



## Summer Fun Night

As summer winds down and we prepare for our Fall offerings, join us at the temple for a concluding summer celebration! Enjoy Havdalah, summer staples, and activities for all ages. Reconnect over dinner and share your favorite summer memories as we create a collective congregational scrapbook filled with fun, friends, and adventures. Don't miss this chance to celebrate together!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 3 PM



## Songs of Love for Tu B'Av!

We are thrilled to invite you to an unforgettable afternoon filled with love and enchantment featuring the talented Cantorettes! Join Cantors Deborah Cannizzaro, Tanya Greenblatt, Beth Schlossberg, and Joy Katzen-Guthrie as they perform an array of romantic melodies from various genres and styles, all in honor of Tu B'Av, the cherished day of love and celebration in Israel. Accompanied by the skilled Robert Jarosh, this musical journey promises to captivate your heart. A reception will follow the concert, offering you the opportunity to mingle and share the joy of music and love.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 5:30 PM



## Taste of CSZ

Join us for an electrifying celebration! Step into a vibrant year ahead as we come together with both old and new friends. Enjoy dinner, entertainment, and activities suitable for all ages. Meet representatives from our diverse groups and auxiliaries. Doors open at 5 PM, followed by Shabbat services at 7 PM.

THURSDAYS FROM 5:30 – 7:30 PM



## Treats on the Town

Join us as we welcome everyone home from their summer adventures and travels. We're eager to catch up over sweet treats suitable for friends of all ages!

### Event Dates and Locations:

- **August 22 (Westchase)**  
Whit's Frozen Custard - 10107 Montague St, Westchase, FL 33626
- **August 29 (Brandon Area)**  
Kimi's Ice Cream and Coffees
- **September 5 (Carrollwood)**  
Tanya and Matt's Ice Creamiest
- **September 12 (Wesley Chapel)**  
Ice Dreammm Shop (State Rd 54)
- **September 19 (South Tampa)**  
Strachan's Ice Cream (Bayshore)

JULY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 3	4  <b>Independence Day</b>	5:30 PM Independence Day Sha'BBQ 7 PM Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 6
7	6:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting 8	9	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 10	12 PM Lunch & Learn 11	4 PM Allegro Hyde Park Shabbat Service 7 PM Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 13 6 PM Family Movie Night
14	15	16	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 6 PM Popsicles in the Park	11:30 AM Senior Luncheon	18 7 PM Shabbat Service 19	9 AM Torah Study 20 10:30 AM Water Wonderland (Littles) 3:30 PM Water Wonderland (Bigs) 6 PM Summer Fun Night
21	7 PM Board of Trustees Meeting 22	23	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 24	12 PM ROMEOs + Jew-liets 6 PM Movie Night	25 7 PM Shabbat Service 26	9 AM Torah Study 27
28	29	30	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 31			

AUGUST 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 PM Game Afternoon 1	7 PM Shabbat Service 2	9 AM Torah Study 3
4	6:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting 7 PM HHD Choir Rehearsal 5	6	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 7 PM HHD Choir Rehearsal 7	12 PM Lunch & Learn 6 PM Movie Night 8	4 PM Allegro Hyde Park Shabbat Service 7 PM Shabbat Service	9 AM Torah Study 10 6 PM Summer Fun Night
11	7 PM HHD Choir Rehearsal 12	13	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 14	11:30 AM Senior Luncheon	15 5:30 PM Tot Shabbat 7 PM Shabbat Service 16	9 AM Torah Study 17 9:15 AM Shabbat Yoga 10:30 AM Bagel Minyan
18	7 PM Board of Trustees Meeting 7 PM HHD Choir Rehearsal 19	20	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 7 PM HHD Choir Rehearsal 21	5:30 PM Treats on the Town (Westchase)	22 5 PM Taste of CSZ 7 PM Shabbat Service 23	9 AM Torah Study 24 4 PM SchZFTY Kickoff 4:30 PM Brenna Borio Bat Mitzvah
25	7 PM HHD Choir Rehearsal 26	27	12 PM Midday Mussar Lunch & Learn (Zoom) 28	5:30 PM Treats on the Town (Brandon Area)	29 7 PM Shabbat Service 30	9 AM Torah Study 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 to May 31, 2024.**

## AMY GAIL BUCHMAN PRESCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of Alexis Buchman from **Anonymous**  
in memory of Regina “Rywka” & Abraham Konsker from **Ashley Simon Castro & Jason Castro**  
in memory of Alexis Buchman from **Bonnie & Richard Hoffman**  
in memory of Alexis Buchman from **Carla & Howard Markowitz**  
in memory of Amy Gail Buchman from **Eugene Beck**

## AMY GAIL BUCHMAN PRESCHOOL FUND

from **Lauren Patrusky**  
in appreciation for the naming ceremony for Sadie and Dylan Seplowe from **Jenna & Scot Seplowe**  
in honor of Theo’s third birthday from **Marilyn & Robert Farber**  
in honor of Brittney Tanisha from **Marilyn & Robert Farber**  
in honor of Eric Newman’s birthday from **Merideth & Bobby Newman**  
in memory of Alexis Buchman from **Deborrah Cannizzaro & Miles Buchman**  
in memory of Nancy Levy from **Lyn Meyerson**  
in memory of Jeremy Messerman from **Paula Wilson**  
in memory of Mark Goodman from **The Sergay Family**  
in memory of Paula Kaplan Berger Fisher from **The Sergay Family**

## ASSOCIATE RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

in honor of Rabbi Weiss from **Abigail & Jonathan Katzeff**  
in memory of Rabbi Frank Sundheim from **Adrienne Sundheim**

## AUDREY E. & JERRY MESSERMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

in honor of Jerry Messermann from **Julia Winston & Steven Gross**  
in memory of Jerry Messerman from **Albert Cohen**  
in memory of Jerry Messerman from **Anita Saphier**  
in memory of Audrey & Jerry Messerman from **David Nussbaum**  
in memory of Jerry Messerman from **Paula & Carl Zielonka**  
in memory of Jerry Messerman from **Susan & Gary Dimit**

## CANTOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation for the wedding of Christopher & Kelsey Halpern from **Silvia & David Halpern**  
in honor of Elliot’s Bat Mitzvah from **Alex & Andrew Warren**  
in honor of Cantor Cannizzaro from **Judy Jacobson**  
in honor of Cantor Cannizzaro from **Michael Haim Berkovits**  
in memory of Katheryn Esterline, Mother of Susie Arnold from **Erin & Patrick Corcoran**

## FLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

in memory of Joost Oppenheim from **Ann Goldman**  
in memory of Mortimer Goldman from **Ann Goldman**

## FLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND

for the speedy recovery of Naomi Brooks from **Adele & Ralph Ribas**

## FOOD BANK FUND

in memory of Nancy (Neddy) Levy from **Denise & Ira Federer**  
in memory of Gilda Atkins from **Rosalynne & Arthur Miller**  
in memory of Carl Miller from **Rosalynne & Arthur Miller**  
in memory of Jillian Miller from **Rosalynne & Arthur Miller**

## HIRSCH FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of Les & Gail Hirsch from **Tricia & Andy Hirsch**

## JACOBSON LIBRARY FUND

in memory of Diane Weissman from **Sharon & Bruce Gobioff**

## RABBI DAVID L. ZIELONKA CAMP COLEMAN FUND

in memory of Connie Mansfield from **Paula & Carl Zielonka**  
in memory of Alexis Buchman from **Paula & Carl Zielonka**

## RABBI EMERITUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation for Rabbi Birnholz officiating Addi and Freddy’s wedding from **Suzanne Gellens**  
in memory of Carly Friedman from **Eva & Bill Gruman**

## SENIOR RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

in honor of the first birthday and long-awaited naming of our son, Elliot Isaac (Eli Yitzhak) from **Alexa & Alex Bourne**  
in honor of Jacob “Fishy” Fishman from **Ellie Fishman**  
in honor of Rabbi Simon from **Margarita Almorza**  
in honor of Barbara Shine Hicks from **Ruth Adrian**  
in honor of Evelyn Straus from **Ruth Adrian**  
in honor of the bris of our firstborn, James Eugene Linsky Shultz, from **Shaina Linsky & Zac Shultz**  
in honor of Cavallaro Bris from **Sharon & Bob Miller**  
in memory of Barbara Graver from **Debbie & Todd Rosenthal**  
in memory of Paula Kaplan Berger Fisher from **Debbie & Todd Rosenthal**  
in memory of MD Smith from **Harriet Smith**  
in memory of Connie Mansfield from **Les Scharf**  
in memory of Barbara Graver from **Marcy & Marc Kaufman**  
with gratitude to Rabbi Simon for the magnificent, meaningful and joy filled wedding he performed for our family from **Amy Wasser**  
with gratitude to Rabbi Simon from **Laura & Sam Stein**

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 memory of Hazel C. Cohen from **Adele & Ralph Ribas**  
in memory of Ruth Wies from **Adele & Ralph Ribas**  
in memory of Michael LeVine from **Alicia LeVine**  
in memory of Sylvia Berlin from **Alicia LeVine**  
in memory of Stanley Dreier from **Alyce & David Kushner**  
in memory of Rena Kushner from **Alyce & David Kushner**  
in memory of Timothy Smith from **Amy & Brian Smith**  
in memory of Edward Minning from **Arlene Berkowitz**  
in memory of Ethel Getzoff from **Barbara Rosenthal**  
in memory of Al Janis from **Barbara Rosenthal**  
in memory of Belle Janis from **Barbara Rosenthal**  
in memory of Jack Messer from **Barbara Simmonds**  
in memory of Richard Fisher from **Cheryl & Steven Fisher**  
in memory of Olga Zinober from **Cynthia & Peter Zinober**  
in memory of Barbara Ingber from **Gail Bernucca**  
in memory of Arnold David Levine from **Gail Levine**  
in memory of Betty Zack Jacobs from **Gayle & Dennis Geagan**  
in memory of Louis A. Jacobs from **Gayle & Dennis Geagan**  
in memory of Richard M Weinberger from **Gloria Weinberger**  
in memory of Mark Puterman from **Grace & Sam Puterman**  
in memory of Michael "MD" Smith from **Grace & Sam Puterman**  
in memory of Sam Kornblau from **Hunter & Bryan Kornblau**  
in memory of Esther Goldsmith from **Jerilyn & Stuart Goldsmith**  
in memory of Seymour & Shirley Branner from **Joann & Roy Branner**  
in memory of Leo Shaw from **Kailie & Maurice Shaw**  
in memory of Susan Silver from **Lauri Hochberg**  
in memory of Doris Reiner from **Leslie Reiner & Tony Kriseman**  
in memory of Mollie Pier from **Linda & Evin Netzer**  
in memory of Sylvia Berlin from **Lisa & Marc LeVine**  
in memory of Michael LeVine from **Lisa & Marc LeVine**

in memory of Suzie Wittenberg from **Lisa Simpson & Richard Wittenberg**  
in memory of Terry Remer from **Lisa Simpson & Richard Wittenberg**  
in memory of Ben Greengold from **Liz & Julian Greengold**  
in memory of Jon Courson III and Lillian Newman from **Lyriss & Eric Newman**  
in memory of Louis E Weiner from **Lyriss & Eric Newman**  
in memory of Julius Newman from **Lyriss & Eric Newman**  
in memory of H. Irving Rapoport, Paula Weber, and Dick Weber from **Marcia & Scott Weber**  
in memory of Charlotte Fisher from **Marianne Fisher & David Moore**  
in memory of Fred Steinhauser & Beatrice Farber from **Marilyn & Robert Farber**  
in memory of William Loewenthal from **Martha Loewenthal**  
in memory of Eleanor Oleson from **Nancy & Jeff Seligsohn**  
in memory of Melinda Sue Hirsch from **Paula & Nathan Davis**  
in memory of Jay Rudolph from **Richard Rudolph**  
in memory of Louis Horowitz from **Robin & Scott Katz**  
in memory of Sarah Zuckerman from **Sara Kornblau & Andrew Medlin**  
in memory of Mary Kornblau from **Sara Kornblau & Andrew Medlin**  
in memory of Irvin Plosker from **Shayne Plosker**  
in memory of Milton Saunders from **Stephanie & Alan Saunders**  
in memory of Louis Ebert from **Wendy Katz**  
in memory of George Katz from **Wendy Katz**

#### SUSTAINING FUND

in honor of Lou Moss from **Terri Conison**  
in memory of Connie Mansfield from **Lisa & Gary Teblum**

#### Julia M. and Samuel L. Flom Religious School Scholarship Fund

At Congregation Schaarai Zedek, we foster a warm, comfortable, and positive Jewish experience and learning environment for our children through the Julia M. and Samuel L. Flom Religious School. Our curriculum goes beyond merely communicating facts; it aims to create a positive environment where young people can become proud, confident, and participating Jews, with resources to reinforce these values at home.

As families register their children for Religious School, we strive to ensure that every child has access to this experience, regardless of their family's financial situation. You can support this effort by contributing to the **Julia M. and Samuel L. Flom Religious School Scholarship Fund** in our Endowment. This fund provides full or partial scholarships for children from families in need within our Temple. Every dollar you contribute helps provide a Jewish education to our congregant children.

*The Endowment Fund of Congregation Schaarai Zedek, known as "Eternal Light—The Schaarai Zedek Endowment," sustains crucial aspects of our community's mission through six pillars. These pillars support religious and cultural preservation, educational excellence including the Julia and Samuel Flom Religious School, and essential services such as the Amy Gail Buchman Preschool. Additionally, the fund allocates resources for professional development, youth engagement, and senior care, reflecting our commitment to long-term community prosperity. If you have any questions, 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

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, Associate Rabbi

Richard J. Birnholz, Rabbi Emeritus

### ADMINISTRATION

Marc LeVine, Executive Director

Rosie Grimes, Bookkeeper

Sarah Guerra, Communications Coordinator

Traci Klein, Director of Finance

Amanda Marks, Executive Coordinator

Khan Whiteside, Clergy Executive Assistant

Marty Wittek, Administration

Debra Zepeda, Dir. of Operations & Membership

### 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

---

## Rabbi Simon's Remarks *(continued)*

to making sure that the needs of this community are met. We are successful because every person who works and volunteers their leadership within these walls has a love for our mission and a love for our members, a shared belief of who we are and the impact that we make.

And as we honor who we are, we celebrate that which we can still become. For unlike that weak adhesive on a sticky note that leaves no trace once the page is gone, this congregation has left an incredible and permanent mark on each of our members over that 130 years and on this Tampa community. During an extremely difficult year in the Jewish world, as we saw the worst attack on the Jewish community since the Holocaust, praying for our brothers and sisters in Israel even as we've witnessed scenes on college

campuses that we never could have imagined in our own country, we have been a refuge of safety. We are grateful for the security team that protects us as family, and we are grateful for these walls of refuge that have provided social and spiritual safety for us at the same time. It is that foundation that makes any potential future change and growth that much more important and exciting.

Last week, as we finished the Book of Leviticus, we said the words, "*Chazak chazak v'nitchazeik* - Be strong, be strong, that we all may be strengthened." Just as was written on that oh so special sticky note, may the strength of our Congregation Schaarai Zedek continue forever, and may that strength be a source of strength for each of our members, for our Tampa community, and God willing, for the wider world. ✨