

Community Calendar

Saturday
December 9

Mitziut presents Rabbi Julia Vaughns, rabbinic emissary to the Lakota Nation, speaking on "Indigenosity: A Standing Rock Talk." 6:30-8:30 p.m., Beit Yichud, 6932 N. Glenwood, Chicago. \$10-\$20 sliding scale. mitziut@yahoo.com.

Jam Productions and WBEZ present "Ruggedly Jewish: An Evening with Bob Garfield." 7:30 p.m., Park West, 322 W. Armitage, Chicago. Special offer to Illinois Holocaust Museum members; \$10 off tickets. Use code IHMEC. iholocaustmuseum.org or (847) 967-4800.

Sunday
December 10

Mitziut presents Rabbi Julia Vaughns, rabbinic emissary to the Lakota Nation, speaking on "Origin prayers of the Jewish Tradition: Introducing a new presentation of the 13 Attributes of Mercy." 9:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m., Beit Yichud, 6932 N. Glenwood, Chicago. \$26-\$36 sliding scale. mitziut@yahoo.com.

Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation A.G. Beth Israel shows film "Echoes That Remain" followed by discussion. 10:30 a.m., 7117 N. Crawford, Lincolnwood. RSVP (847) 676-0491.

Lubavitch Chabad of Northbrook presents a "Chanukah Wonderland." 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Also December 11, 17 and 18 at Northbrook Court Lower Level near Tree House, Northbrook. \$10 all inclusive admission. (847) 564-8770.

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center presents Dr. Ian Hancock discussing "Romani Life: Then and Now." 2-3:30 p.m., 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. Free with museum admission. RSVP (847) 967-4800.

Wednesday
December 13

Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation Sisterhood holds Chanukah Party and Latke Luncheon with music by Bibi Marcell. Please bring unwrapped new book or toy for Chai Lifeline. 11:30 a.m., 4500 Dempster, Skokie. \$20 members, \$25 non-members and at door. (847) 675-4141.

Thursday
December 14

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center shows film "Summer of Love" followed by discussion. 6:30-8 p.m., 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. Free to public. RSVP (847) 967-4800.

Friday
December 15

Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation holds "Family Chanukah Shabbat Evening." 6:15 p.m., 4500 Dempster, Skokie. \$20 members, \$22 non-members. \$10 ages six to twelve, and free for age five and under. Reservations (847) 675-4141.

Saturday
December 16

Makom Shalom, a Jewish Renewal Congregation, holds Chanukah celebration including pot luck dinner, concert and Chanukah teachings. 5 p.m., Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway, Chicago. \$20 adults, \$10 children. makomshalom.com.

Young Israel of West Rogers Park holds Chanukah concert featuring Efrayim Prero and the Voyage. 8 p.m., 2706 Touhy, Chicago. \$10 suggested donation. (773) 501-4728.

Sunday
December 17

Ezra-Habonim, the Niles

Towship Jewish Congregation presents Rabbi Ralph Ruebner speaking on "Justice and Righteousness (Dvarim, Shoftim and Talmud)." 11:30 a.m., 4500

Dempster, Skokie. \$5. \$8 door. Registration (847) 675-4141.



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As we celebrate Chanukah, please give the gift of life, and make your year-end tax-deductible donation today.

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Around the Community

Kosherica's Luxury Passover Collection

The way things are turning out, the 2018 Passover holiday with Kosherica will be one of the most luxurious and exciting Passover programs to date. Kosherica will have sought after Passover resorts and programs all over the country. The triple threat lineup will start at AAA Four Diamond award winning JW Marriott Resort and Spa in Palm Springs, California. Kosherica will also thrill guests at the most sought after family adventure resort, Atlantis in the Bahamas. Last but not least, Kosherica will return to the gorgeous PGA Resort and Spa in West Palm Springs, Florida. This will be one of the most spectacular Passover Resorts options to date.

The AAA Four Diamond Award Winning Hotel and Resort (18% off for a very limited time)

The JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa is one of the most sought after hotels in the country. The sprawling oasis is home to 450 acres of lush grounds, lakes and lagoons right near Palm Spring's renowned outdoor and shopping attractions. With five sparkling outdoor pools, two championship golf courses, a state of the art spa and Kosherica's exquisite Passover Kosher food and exceptional customer service, it's easy to see why it's imperative that you book early. This is the perfect

destination for those who love to be pampered in pure luxury. It's not a coincidence that this resort is listed as one of the best hotels in the US and one of the best spas in the world.

Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas (50% off Kids rooms and 25% off Parents Rooms)

Get lost in the unbelievable paradise of Atlantis Paradise Island. It's the Caribbean's top resort, home to the largest open-air marine habitat in the world, water parks, thrilling ocean adventures, dolphin parks, one of the most luxurious spas in the area, the largest casino in the islands, a par 72 championship golf course, night clubs, tennis courts, shopping, theater, pottery studio, speedway and delightful excursions. This stunning resort is the ultimate getaways for those that want to relish in the Caribbean sun while constantly having an adventure. The 141 acre water parks (Aquaventure), aquariums, and non-stop Kosherica entertainment are all included in the price. Atlantis' Coral Tower just had a 25 million dollar renovation. This Passover resort and Spa always sells out. Book early. It's a Passover escape of the best kind.

PGA National Resort & Spa, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

In collaboration with Leisure Time Tours, Kosherica will be back again at

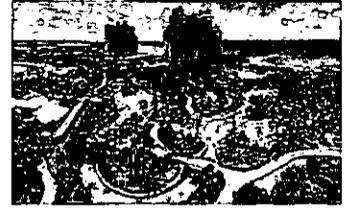
the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The AAA 4-Diamond world-class resort is almost sold out. The entire hotel is reserved for Passover program guests.

Fabulous Food

Speaking of fresh, just wait until you sit down to a meal at Kosherica's gourmet Kosher for Passover experience. Kosherica's world class culinary teams will be heading up the Kosher production culinaire, whether in the dining room, at the tea room, or at a poolside barbecue. The lavish Kosher food spreads at Kosherica's programs are matched only by the strict level of kosher for Passover supervision, under the exacting eye of Kosher *mashgichim* and Rabbinical authorities. This year on Passover, feast on more than you could ever cook up yourself and realize that Kosher for Passover food will become your favorite type of food.

Best in Class Entertainment/ Services and Scholars

See why Kosherica is famous for non-stop over-the-top programming. Live it up with top-talent performers and experiences, from music and comedy to sensational theme nights. And don't forget to absorb the meaning and freedom of Passover with insightful lectures and warm, inspiring services.



Need a break from the kids? *We gotchu.* Hide out at the spa or on the golf course; we'll keep your kids and infants well taken care of with the absolute best caring staff. Your teens will enjoy special programming, too, so be prepared for the rare silence of nobody saying, "I'm bored."

Whatever your favorite pastime, we've got you covered.

For more information about your Passover 2018 hotel experience, please call 877-SAIL-KOSHER, 305-695-2700 or email info@kosherica.com.

**SHA'AREI BINA'S
PRE-CHANUKAH
CARNIVAL**

**Sunday, December 10
11:00AM - 4:00PM
2907 Taylor St
Hollywood, FL 33020**

**Free Admission!!
Tickets: \$.50 each**

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Around the Community

New PJ Library® Community Connectors Bring Local Families to Jewish Life

For five years, families raising Jewish children from six months through eight years old in South Palm Beach County have been receiving a monthly gift of free high-quality Jewish children's books and music sent right to their homes and getting together all around town through PJ Library®. Now Jewish families are getting even more opportunities to get involved and meet new friends, thanks to a recent grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, which provides free PJ Library books to families raising Jewish children all over the world.

"We are delighted that South Palm Beach County was one of this year's five winning initiatives designed to build social connections among families and engage them in Jewish life, programming and learning," said local PJ Library Co-Chair Joanna Drowos, who helped bring the initiative to the community in 2012 and has watched it grow. "We look forward to how many more connections we'll be able to create by hiring our three new part-time Community Connectors -



L-R Shayna Martinoff, Shaina Yeslow with Tamar, Sarah Finkelstein-Wolfe

local PJ moms Sarah Finkelstein-Wolfe, Shayna Martinoff and Shaina Yeslow, who live in different parts of South Palm Beach County.

"PJ Library not only brings Jewish books into local homes - we also bring the young Jewish community together and help them engage in Jewish life," said Drowos' Co-chair, Miriam Klein. "We look forward to having more PJ friends join the 1,900 local families already registered for their free monthly gifts, as well

as the 5,500 children, parents and grandparents who enjoy getting together at PJ events large and small all over the community"

"So many Jewish families from all parts of the community enjoy stories, crafts, concerts and fairs, and learn about holidays and mitzvot," said Elana Ostroff, local PJ Library Director. Together, they pack food for those in need, meet authors, make hamentashen, and visit a farm, bookstores, synagogues and so much more. Now even more people are hearing about and finding ways to engage that feel right and are well-located for their own families."

"Through our work, young families are able to connect at more intimate gatherings and attend a larger event without feeling overwhelmed by a group of people they've never met," said new Community Connector Shayna Martinoff, who has also helped PJ start up and grow in its first years. "We've already had many casual meet-ups and programs around town at places including Gumbo Limbo Nature

Center, yogurt shops, and play gyms."

Ostroff extends a broad invitation: "Whether you're new to town, a new parent or a longtimer, if you're looking to connect with new Jewish families for playdates, storytimes or even a mom's night out, just contact pjlibrary@bocafed.org.

Part of a five-year strategy to expand Jewish engagement in North America, grants such as the one recently received by South Palm Beach County are funded through the PJ Library Alliance. Partners in the Alliance are the Azrieli Foundation; Carl and Joann Bianco; William Davidson Foundation; Jim Joseph Foundation; William and Audrey Farber Philanthropic Fund; Diane and Guilford Glazer/ Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles; the Marcus Foundation, Inc.; Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation; Sussner Family Trust; Walter, Arnee, Sarah, and Aaron Winshall; and two anonymous partners.

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Ministry of Education



◀ Tucking in at Sacks Morasha Primary in Finchley



School gets top level gym

BY SIMON ROCKER

▶ THE IMPRESSIVE new gymnasium at Naima JPS was turned into a banqueting hall as supporters celebrated the inauguration of the latest extension to the independent Sephardi school in Maida Vale and saluted its founder, Rabbi Abraham Levy.

Costing nearly £3 million and erected on top of the Saatchi Synagogue, the new facility has been named after donors Eliahou and Joyce Abraham.

Leading tributes to Rabbi Levy and his wife Estelle, emeritus Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks said Rabbi Levy was a role model of tolerance and inclusivity, combining devotion to Torah with openness to the wisdom of the world. "You know, I know, it is the right way."

Calling Naima JPS "one of the gems" of British Jewry, he told Rabbi Levy: "You put in so much effort and now

you are blessed by the reward."

Thanking supporters for their generosity, Rabbi Levy said the school had "never owed or borrowed a penny" since its opening in 1983.

He recalled that when its building, formerly the Bayswater Synagogue, was bought, he had received a call from a United Synagogue official complaining at not having seen any mortgage arrangements.

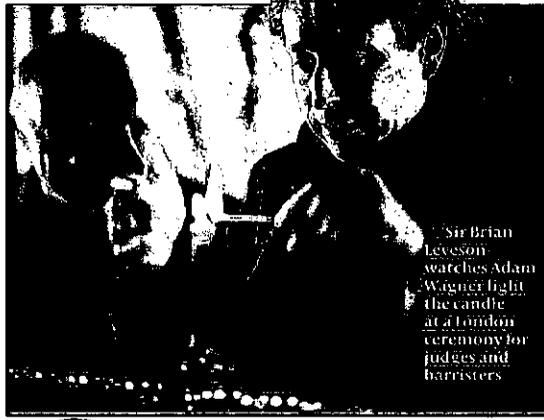
Rabbi Levy told him not to worry because "Iraqis pay cash".

A week before completion, he collected cheques from two of the principal contributors, David and Sami Shamoon, at one of their places of recreation — a Park Lane casino.

Although Rabbi Levy remains honorary principal, his son Julian now looks after the school's fundraising and daughter-in-law Sian organised the dinner.



Nicola Sturgeon does the honours in Edinburgh — and meets members of the Liberal congregation



Sir Brian Leveson swatches Adam Wagner light the candle at a London ceremony for judges and barristers



▲ Sylvia Berltner at Jewish Care home Rubens House in Finchley

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Jews As A Bridge On Religious Liberty?

In the Colorado cake case, religious values are clashing with discrimination. Jews have been on both sides.

Michael Helfand

Special To The Jewish Week

Last week, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the much-anticipated case of the Colorado baker who refused to bake a cake for a same-sex wedding. The extraordinary public interest in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* (CCRC) stems from the high legal stakes. On the one hand, the CCRC emphasizes how its “public accommodations” laws protect the LGBT community from discrimination at the hands of businesses open to the public. On the other hand, the baker argues that his First Amendment rights — both free speech and religious liberty — prohibit government from requiring him to design and bake a custom-cake for an event that runs contrary to



Dave Mullins and Charlie Craig, the plaintiffs in the Colorado cake case, in front of the Supreme Court.

GETTY IMAGES

his religious beliefs. And so this all-out clash has grabbed our collective attention: how should our

society prioritize these competing principles of 21st-century American law?

Not surprisingly, given the stakes for both religious and minority communities, Jewish institutions have entered the fray. On the extremes, Agudath Israel of America submitted an amicus brief to the Supreme Court, supporting the baker because upholding the decision against the baker “would also bar Orthodox Jews from living and conducting our businesses in accordance with our core religious beliefs.” By contrast, various Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist organizations signed a brief in favor of the CCRC, arguing that “evenhanded civil rights enforcement that declines to give special status to any one set of religious views is consistent with the respect for pluralism, fundamental to First Amendment history and jurisprudence, that is the essence of religious liberty.” And somewhere in between — although certainly

— the Orthodox Union joined a brief supporting the baker, arguing “[n]ow that the Court has protected the liberty of same-sex couples, it is equally important to protect the religious liberty of these conscientious objectors.”

That Jewish organizations and institutions are split, largely along denominational lines, on a religious liberty case is somewhat of a new phenomenon. While Jewish denominations have been divided for some time on cases about the separation of church and state — such as cases regarding government funding of private schools or religious symbols on government property — there had been far more denominational cohesion when it came to past religious liberty cases. Thus, for example, in 1963, when a Seventh-Day Adventist, who had refused to show up to work on her Sabbath, claimed that South Carolina’s denial of her unemployment benefits violated her religious liberty, Reform, Conservative and Orthodox denominations all joined together to support her claim. Similarly, when in 1972, an Amish family refused to send their child to public school for religious reasons, but in violation of Wisconsin law, Reform, Conservative and Orthodox denominations joined together to support the family’s religious liberty claim.

‘Each side of the debate is unwilling to concede the value of the opposing side for fear of giving up ground in what is increasingly characterized as a zero-sum game.’

This is surely not to say that Jewish denominations have always agreed in religious liberty cases. But those divisions largely emerged in cases where religious liberty stood in tension with the rights of other minority groups. Maybe the most prominent example is the split among Jewish institutions on how to resolve the 1983 case *Bob Jones University v. United States*, where the IRS with-



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Ministry of Education

NEWS

U.S. aircraft carrier gets a Torah scroll

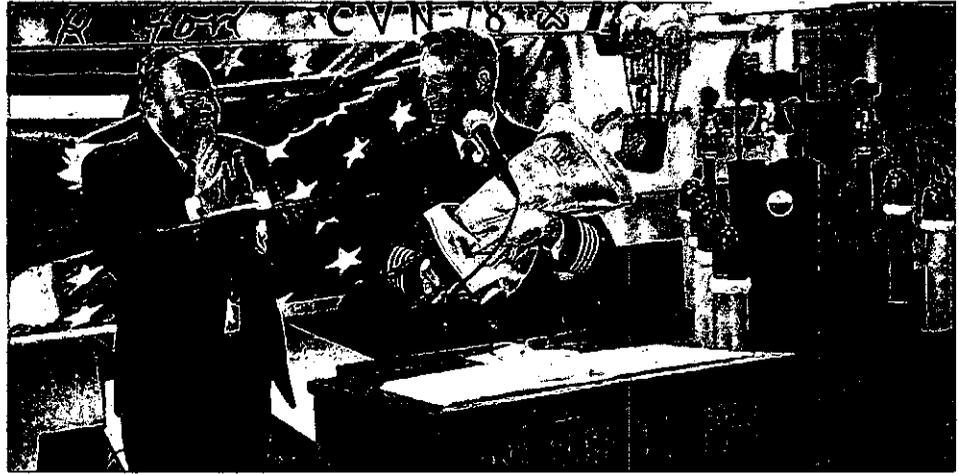
Jewish sailors aboard the Navy aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford now have a Torah scroll to use during their six- to eight-month stints at sea.

The umbrella body for Jewish chaplains, the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, a program of JCC Association of North America, dedicated the scroll on

The scroll, slightly smaller than those used in most synagogues, is designed for use in the shipboard chapel.

Wednesday aboard the ship in Norfolk, Va.

It was dedicated to the memory Sgt. Jacob Kamaras, a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. On hand for the ceremony were his son, Philip Kamaras, a New York lawyer, and



Philip Kamaras, left, and Capt. Richard McCormack of the USS Gerald R. Ford, celebrate the installation of a new Torah on the ship in Norfolk on Nov. 29.

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Connor D. Loessin

his namesake grandson, Jacob Kamaras, a journalist and publicist in Houston.

The Kamaras family paid for the \$36,000 scroll as part of the chaplains'

council Torah for Our Troops campaign, which equips chaplains with travel-size Torah scrolls. The scroll, slightly smaller than those used in most synagogues, is designed for use in the shipboard chapel.

"My dad was a blue-collar worker who was drafted at age 34 before landing in Europe to fight for the four freedoms," Philip Kamaras said in a statement describing his father, a tailor, and referring to goals articulated by President Franklin Roosevelt in his 1941 State of the Union address. "Now his legacy will live on as his Torah sails the world, overlooking brave sailors and giving them strength."

—JTA News and Features

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