

# Rabbinically Speaking

## Jewish holidays fill the year

By RABBI MORDECHAI LEVY  
Temple Ohev Shalom, New Tampa

There are many holidays in Jewish life. In fact, there is only one month in which no holiday is observed and that is Heshvan, which occurs in the fall. Sometimes, the word MAR is added to the name Marcheshvan, which then means sad. The month itself is sad, since it is void of any type of holiday.

We have just recently observed one holiday and shortly we shall usher in another. One is short – Purim. One is long – Pesach. There are dissimilarities and similarities about them.

The one day of Purim has no religious restrictions, where as the Passover has many. We have fun with one celebration and we read a complete book from the Tanach (Bible). Our Tanach is made up of three different collections. The TA of Tanach refers to the Torah, which is most, assuredly the most important. Then there are the NA – Navim – prophets. And finally the ch – chtuvim – wisdom literature.

The Torah is read from start to finish each year. The prophets – we read selections from them. The wisdom – some Psalms are read, Song of Songs is read, others not, but on Purim we read the complete Scroll of Esther.

Passover and Purim, they have connections, one to the other. Perhaps you might have looked at the night sky on Purim. It's too late now, but, had you done it, you would have seen a wonderful sight – the bright full moon against the dark sky. That was so, because Purim falls on the 14 of the month of Adar. But don't worry you have a second chance to behold that magnificent sight. On Passover, the 14 of Nisan, you will see the sky lit with the full moon.

As noted, Purim has no religious obligations or restrictions, where as Passover has so many – too many to count, but, the similarities are there and very forceful and meaningful to the destiny and continuation of our People Israel.

They both are based on historical events that are crucial to our future existence. History is a compelling feature for the existence of a people. History is not only a glimpse into the past of a people, but also into the future existence of that people. Purim fits the bill and so does Passover. They tell us, as to who we were and what we shall be in the future. Few people are guaranteed of that consequence. We have been around for a very long time in the history of man. Many cultures, countries and people have come and gone, where as we have solved the problem of history, because we constantly recreate it in order to survive. And so we began our journey long, long ago. And others have disappeared, but we are here to celebrate Purim and laugh at them all. Purim describes an historical situation about us but we did overcome it. And aha - here we are.

Passover is the other bit of history that tells who we were and where we lived. But also tells the history of our futures. They thought that we were to be slaves, but freedom was our insignia - live in the future, on your own land and celebrate holidays from now into infinity. And so we did, and so we shall do. We are the product of history, but also its companion as we march into the future.

No other people witnesses history the way we do, celebrate it, march with it, from the past, into the future. Purim and Passover will always be observed because they guided us and now march with us into the future.

Happy Post Purim  
And  
Happy Pre Passover

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## Congregations

### Temple Ohev Shalom New Tampa

#### Community Bagel Brunch:

Make new friends and catch up with old ones over bagels and lox on Sundays, March 21 and April 25 at Temple Ohev Shalom. The community is invited to try out the religious school for the day. Parents are welcome to bring their children at 9 a.m. for religious school, then enjoy a bagel brunch from 10:30 a.m. to noon. RSVP to (813) 632-9900.

### Cong. Kol Ami

**Talent time:** Kol Ami's Idol 6 talent competition will be Saturday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the social hall. The evening will include ice cream and other snacks. Cost is \$5 per person. To participate or for information, contact the synagogue office or **Dan Ochman** at dochman@verizon.net.

**Picnic:** The annual Kol Yeladim congregational picnic will be Sunday, March 21 at Kol Ami. Beginning at 11 a.m., there will be games, Israeli dancing, face-painting and a cook-out featuring hamburgers, hot dogs and Rita's ice. The food will be prepared by the Sisterhood and Men's Club. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call the synagogue office.

**Healing service:** Anyone seeking comfort, guidance, strength, and renewal of spirit is invited to attend the next Refaeinu service with **Hazzan Sered-Lever** on Monday, March 15 at 6:45 p.m. in the Kol Ami social hall. For information, contact Hazzan Sered-Lever at 962-6338 or hazzan@kolami.org.

**Mah jongg:** Sisterhood's mah jongg tournament will be hell Sunday, March 14 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of Aston Gardens, 12951 W. Linebaugh Ave. Cost is \$25 per person. To RSVP call **Sylvia Richman** at 968-7222 or **Lorna Michaelson** at 960-8058.

**Torah Class:** Join **Rabbi Bob Judd** for his presentation on the Torah Parasha of the week, followed by discussion on Wednesdays through March 24 at 11 a.m.

**Passover services:** Congregation Kol Ami's Passover schedule includes Monday, March 29, Taanit Bechorim, or First Born Siyyum at 7 a.m. and First Born breakfast at 8 a.m.; Tuesday, March 30, service at 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday, April 6, services including Yizkor at 9:30 a.m.

**Passover barbecue:** The Sisterhood-sponsored Passover bar-

becue will be held on Sunday, April 4, at noon. For more information, call the synagogue office.

### Cong. Beth Am

**Men's Club:** The Men's Club will hold a breakfast meeting at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 14. Contact the temple for more information.

**Volunteers needed:** Participants are needed to help serve a meal to homeless-shelter families at Metropolitan Ministries on Easter Sunday, April 4. Contact **Joe and Marilyn Lehman** for more information at 780-1252 or at joemarlehan@netzero.com..

### Cong. Schaarai Zedek

**Pre-Pesach Tot Shabbat:** **Rabbis Richard Birnholz and Joel Simon and Cantor Riselle Bain** will lead parents and tots on a special pre-Pesach hunt through the Temple as tots look for crumbs and other non-Pesadik items, then enjoy a pre-Pesach pizza lunch, on Saturday, March 13 at 10 a.m.

**Bagels 'n' blocks:** Parents & Tots (newborn to 4 years) will get together on Friday, March 12 and 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. There will be bagels and coffee for adults while tots play. Celebrate Shabbat with songs, crafts and special music with Mr. Mike. For information, contact **Sherry Stein**, director of Life Long Learning, at 876-2377, ext. 210.

**Bible topic:** A webcast of Yale professor Dr. Christine Hayes's "Introduction to the Hebrew Bible" class is shown on Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. at the temple. On March 17, Hayes' topic is "Response to Catastrophe," on March 24 she will discuss "The Non-literary Prophets" and on March 31 she will speak on "Literary Prophecy: Amos." Each lecture is self-contained so participants may join in at any time. Rabbis Birnholz and Simon will also discuss the topic following each lecture. RSVP to 876-2377.

**Kid's activities:** Children in Ruach (third and fourth grades) can participate in Mad Science Madness on Sunday, March 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and learn how to build marshmallow molecules, make putty and cotton candy and watch a bubbling extravaganza with dry ice.

Children in Kochavim (fifth and sixth grades) can join in a Wild & Crazy Kids event on Sunday, March 21 from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Stars Athletic Gym. Trainers will help kids in the foam pit, on the tumble track and work through an

## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times



March 12 • 6:20 pm  
March 19 • 7:23 pm  
March 26 • 7:27 pm  
April 2 • 7:31 pm  
April 9 • 7:34 pm

obstacle course.

For more information or to RSVP for either event, contact **Lindsey** at lmorgan@zedek.org or 876.2377, Ext. 221

**Book Club:** The Sisterhood Book Club meets Monday, March 22 at noon to discuss *American Wife* by Curtis Sittanfeld. Participants can bring their lunch. Beverages will be provided. Call the temple office to RSVP.

**Next Dor:** Those in their 20s and 30s are invited to join a pre-Passover Prep with Pizza and Pilsners on Thursday, March 25 from 7-9:30 p.m. For more information and to RSVP, e-mail, jsimon@zedek.org or call 876-2377, ext. 229.

### Cong. Rodeph Sholom

**Tot Shabbat:** A Shabbat morning program for children age 2 and a half to six will be held Saturday, March 13 at 10:15 a.m. Events include songs, stories, games, puppets, arts and crafts, prayers, a Torah Parade and a special Torah storybook.

**Mom and munchkins:** A program for children up to 2 years old and their moms will be held on Tuesday, March 23 at 10:30 a.m. There will be dancing and singing and schmoozing with other moms. There is no charge to attend and everyone is welcome.

**Passover services:** The service of the First Born will be held Monday, March 29 at 7 a.m. On the eighth day of Passover, Tuesday, April 6, services including Yizkor will begin at 9:30 a.m.

**Downtown study group:** Meet with **Rabbi Marc Sack** from noon to 1 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month from now through June on the 27<sup>th</sup> floor of the Bank of America building in downtown Tampa. The course is open to all people and the discussion is often lively. The group does a "close reading" of the Torah text, seeking to understand the foundations of ancient Judaism and its development through history.

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## Religious Directory

### HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

#### Reform

**BETH ISRAEL/ JEWISH CONGREGATION OF SUN CITY CENTER** - 1115 East Del Webb Blvd., Sun City Center • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5203, Sun City Center, 33571 • Rabbi Philip Aronson • Shabbat Services: Friday 7:45 p.m. • Telephone: 633-2548 • Web address: http://fi042.urj.net.

**Congregation BETH AM** - 2030 W. Fletcher Ave, Tampa 33612 • Rabbi Jason Rosenberg • Vikki Silverman, Cantorial Family Educator • Shabbat Services: Friday nights, 1st and 3rd, 8 p.m.; 2nd and 4th, 6:30 p.m., Saturday: 10:30 a.m. • Telephone 968-8511 • Website: www.mybetham.com.

**Congregation BETH SHALOM** - 706 Bryan Road, Brandon, 33511 • Rabbi Betsy Torop • Shabbat Services: Friday 7:45 p.m. • Telephone: 681-6547 • Website: http://bethshalom-brandon.org.

**Congregation SCHAARAI ZEDEK** - 3303 W. Swann Ave., Tampa 33609 • Rabbi Richard J. Birnholz, Rabbi Joel Simon • Cantor Riselle Bain • Services: Friday, 7:15 p.m., Saturday Bar/Bat Mitzvah Service, 11 a.m. • Telephone: 876-2377 • Website: www.zedek.org.

#### Conservative

**Congregation KOL AMI** - 3919 Moran Road, Tampa 33618 • Rabbi Robert Judd • Hazzan Jodi Sered-Lever • Shabbat Services: Friday 6:30 p.m.; Saturday 9:30 a.m. • Sunday morning minyan 9:15 a.m. • Monday-Thursday minyan 7:30 p.m. • Telephone: 962-6338 • website: www.kolami.org.

**Congregation RODEPH SHOLOM** - 2713 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa 33629 • Rabbi Marc Sack • Cantor Moshe Friedler • Shabbat Services: Friday 6:30 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. • Daily Minyans: Mon.-Fri. 7:15 a.m, Wednesday, 4:30 p.m., Sunday, 9:15 a.m. • Telephone: 837-1911 • Website: www.rsholom.org.

#### Orthodox

**BAIS (TEMPLE) DAVID CHABAD** - 2001 W. Swann Ave., Tampa 33606 • Rabbi Lazer Rivkin • Shabbat Services: Friday 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. •

Telephone: 966-8770 • Website: www.chabadofcentralflorida.com.

**CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF TAMPA** - Frank A. Weaner Center, 14908 Pennington Road, Tampa 33624 • Rabbi Yossie Dubrowski, executive director • Telephone: 963-2317 • Website: www.chabadoftampabay.com.

**CHABAD of BRANDON** - Rabbi Mendel Rubashkin • Services: Bi-weekly, 7 p.m. • Call for location, Telephone: 657-9393 • Website: chabadbrandon.org.

**CHABAD LUBAVITCH of SOUTH TAMPA** - Rabbi Mendy Dubrowski • 4107 W. Platt St., Tampa, FL 33609 • Telephone: 813-287-1795 • Website: www.ChabadSouthTampa.com

**CHABAD at COUNTY LINE** - Rabbi Mendy Yarmush • Telephone: 813-642-3244 • Website: www.chabadatcountyline.com.

**Congregation BAIS MENACHEM CHABAD** — 8913 Eastman Dr., Tampa, FL 33626 • Rabbi Levi Rivkin • Shabbat dinner, 8 p.m. • Shacharit service: Mon. & Thurs., 8:15 a.m., Weinberg Village. Mincha service: Mon. - Thurs., 6 p.m., Weinberg Village • Telephone: 813-375-9799, 813-504-4432 • Website: www.chabadofcentralflorida.com

**Congregation BAIS TEFILLAH** - 14908 Pennington Road, Tampa, 33624 • Rabbi Yossie Dubrowski • Shabbat Services: Friday, 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. • Shachrit, Mon.-Fri., 6:30 a.m., Maariv, Mon.-Fri., 7:45 p.m., Sunday Shachrit, 9 a.m. • Telephone: 963-2317 • Website: www.chabadoftampabay.com

**Congregation YOUNG ISRAEL OF TAMPA** - 5205 E. 131st Ave., Tampa, 33617 • Rabbi Uriel Rivkin • Shabbat Services: Friday, 7 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. • Sunday, 9:30 a.m. • 832-3018 • Website: www.youngisraeloftampa.org

**MERKOS CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF CENTRAL FLORIDA** — 613 S. Melville Ave. Tampa, 33606 • Director: Rabbi Lazer Rivkin • Telephone: 966-8770 • Website: www.ChabadOfCentralFlorida.com

#### Campus

**CHABAD HOUSE JEWISH STUDENT CENTER at USF** — 13207 N. 52nd St., Tampa, FL 33617, Mailing address: USF Marshall CTR. Box 310, Tampa,

33620. • Rabbi Uriel Rivkin • Shabbat Services and Meal: Friday 7:30 p.m. • Housing Available • Telephone: 983-9770

**THE HILLELS OF THE FLORIDA SUNCOAST**— 13101 Sycamore Drive, Tampa, 33620 • Rabbi Ed Rosenthal • Shabbat Services: Friday 6 p.m. in the Marshall Center at USF • Sunday Bagel Brunches 11 a.m. • Telephone: 899-2788 • Website: http://www.hilleloftampabay.org.

**USF CHABAD on CAMPUS** — 4605 Sweetwater Lake Drive, Tampa, 33620 • Rabbi Pinny Backman • Website: www.USFChabad.com

#### Unaffiliated

**OR AHAVAH** - A Jewish Renewal Community • Debrah Shenefelt, spiritual leader • Shabbat services • Telephone: 813-968-7850; email: orhaahavahatampa@att.net. • Affiliated with Aleph.

**Temple OHEV SHALOM** OF NEW TAMPA • 6460 Tampa Palms Blvd. Tampa 33647 • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 46155, Tampa 33647 • Rabbi Mordechai Levy • Shabbat Services: 2nd and 4th Friday of the month 7:15 p.m. • 1st Saturday of the month 9:30 a.m. • Tel.: 632-9900. • Website: www.templeohevshalom.org.

### HERNANDO COUNTY

#### Reform

**Temple BETH DAVID** -13158 Antelope St., Spring Hill • Rabbi David Levin • Lynn Budnick, Gloria Goldman and Elaine Ticotin, cantorial soloists • Shabbat Services: Friday, 8 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. • Telephone: 352-686-7034 • Website: www.tbdfll.org.

### CITRUS COUNTY

#### Conservative

**CONGREGATION BETH SHOLOM**- Civic Circle, Beverly Hills - Hazzan Mordeca Kamlot, spiritual leader • Mailing address: Beverly Hills Jewish Center, P.O. Box 640024, Beverly Hills, FL 34464-0024. Shabbat services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Telephone 352-746-5303