

In Brief

Beach setting to offer mikvah experience

Ramat Shalom Synagogue in Plantation will provide a mikvah program at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 5 at Dania Beach Pier.

“Between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we are encouraged to reflect on our lives, determining how we can grow in the new year,” said Rabbi Andrew Jacobs, the synagogue’s spiritual leader. “In order to do this, we need to let go of old habits and behaviors. Doing so allows us to transform. For Jews, immersing ourselves in the *mikvah* – a ritual bath or natural body of water – is a practice that goes hand in hand with personal transformation.”

Jacobs continued, “As we begin the new Jewish year and seek new ways to grow and flourish, we invite anyone who would like to experience the power of the *mikvah* to join us. How fortunate we are to live in South Florida where the ocean is the perfect *mikvah*.”

Contact Jody Schwartz at 954-472-3600 or ramatshalom@ramatshalom.org to RSVP or for more information.

Mandel JCC hires new president and CEO

The Mandel Jewish Community Center of the Palm Beaches recently appointed Jesse Rosen as its president and chief executive officer.

Rosen previously served as chief operating officer of the Harry & Rose Samson Family JCC in Milwaukee. While in Milwaukee, he also served for three years as the director of the Milwaukee JCC Maccabi Games. Before entering the JCC world, he worked for the White House as an advance associate for the president and held key leadership roles in public service, political campaigns and large-scale special events. In 2017, Rosen was chosen as a Fellow of the first cohort of the Mandel Foundation Executive Leadership Program, which is designed to cultivate what are considered the most senior Jewish community professionals of the future.

Levis JCC to present annual Golf Classic

The Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center in Boca Raton will present its 17th annual Golf Classic on Oct. 24 at Addison Reserve Country Club in Delray Beach.

This event is sponsored by the Phyllis and Harvey Sandler Family Foundation and continues a tradition of honoring longtime Levis JCC supporter and board member Mel Gutmann’s memory and his legacy of service to the Jewish community. His children Eric Gutmann and Lori Fineman, who are current JCC officers, serve as honorary chairs for this event which features 18 holes of golf and a post-play reception honoring individuals and foursomes for their accomplishments on the golf course.

Visit levisjcc.org/golf to register for the event or for more information, including schedule and fees. Contact Lauren Koblack at 561-852-3257 or laurenk@levisjcc.org for more information on becoming a Golf Classic sponsor or payer.

— Sergio Carmona

South Florida Jewish organizations help raise breast cancer awareness

By Sergio Carmona
Florida Jewish Journal

With October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month, several Jewish organizations across South Florida are providing support by presenting programs that offer much needed information regarding the disease.

Temple Beth Orr’s Sisterhood in Coral Springs presents its annual Pink Week during the month.

Judie Goren, Pink Week coordinator, said regarding the goal for this series, “We want to educate people so that they’re not afraid if there’s a diagnosis of breast cancer.”

“We want people to be aware that they can be happy and healthy after a diagnosis and be able to live a very full, very normal life.”

The series begins at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 13 with breast cancer survivor Tammy Krichmar presenting “I’m Dense, are You? A Candid Discussion About Breast Density & What it Means to You,” at the synagogue, 2151 Riverside Dr. in Coral Springs. Everyone is welcomed attend this event. RSVP to Goren at judiegfl@hotmail.com by Oct. 8. TBO Brotherhood is supplying bagels and cream cheese for this event. The series continues on Oct. 24 with a pink challah bake at 11 a.m. at a home in Coral Springs. Space is limited to the first 12 Sisterhood members who RSVP to Bonnie Singer at cygnet2mail@gmail.com by Oct. 16. The address will be provided upon RSVP. The pink challah will be used at the synagogue’s Pink Shabbat taking place the next evening on Oct. 25 in which guests are encouraged to wear pink to show support.

Goren said that this Pink Shabbat is a traditional service, but people will read in honor of both breast cancer survivors and those who lost their lives to the disease. There will be information from organizations such as the American Cancer Society; Sharsheret, a national not-for-profit organization supporting young Jew-



Breast cancer survivor Judie Goren is the coordinator for Temple Beth Orr’s Sisterhood’s Pink Week.

ish women and their families facing breast cancer; and Gilda’s Club, a community organization for people living with cancer.

Goren is a 13-year survivor of breast cancer who started the Sisterhood’s Pink Week more than a decade ago.

“It’s very emotional, but it’s a happy emotion, because those of us who work on Pink

Week want to make sure everyone is educated and aware,” she said.

The Sisterhood will have its Pink Week Walk on Oct. 26 when its team, “TBO Sisterhood We’re Pink” walks at Huizenga Park in Fort Lauderdale for the annual “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” Walk in memory of Sisterhood members who were taken too soon from cancer.

Visit makingstrideswalk.org/browardfl to join the team and walk or donate. Contact Goren for more information on the walk. Call the synagogue at 954-753-3232 or visit templebethorr.org for more information on Pink Week.

Sharsheret is also partnering with other Jewish organizations throughout Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties in October to raise breast cancer awareness during several events. These include Pink Shabbats at local synagogues and Pink Days at area Jewish community centers. The events will include giveaways and informational materials on Sharsheret and local resources. Participants are encouraged to wear pink in support of breast cancer awareness to these events.

Briana Schwarz, Sharsheret’s Florida Regional director, said, “Sharsheret, a national non-profit organization, improves the lives of Jewish

women and families living with or at increased genetic risk for breast or ovarian cancer through personalized support and saves lives through educational outreach.”

“Our goal when partnering with community organizations like synagogues and JCCs is to provide education on the risk of hereditary cancer in the Jewish population as well as letting them know about Sharsheret’s support resources.”

Schwarz said it is critical that Jewish women and families know the facts about the risk of breast and ovarian cancer among the Jewish population.

“One in 40 Ashkenazi Jews, men and women, carries a BRCA gene mutation compared to one in 500 in the general population. Aside from BRCA, there are numerous other mutations linked to breast and ovarian cancer. Sharsheret educates the community on how to take action and what questions to ask your healthcare professional to access your risk. Also, our support staff includes social workers and a genetic counselor to help the Jewish community navigate through the genetics information which often can be confusing.”

Visit sharsheret.org for information on local breast cancer awareness events in October and contact host organizations for details.

In support of **Hadassah’s** “The-Uplift Project” and its breast cancer research and awareness, Bloomingdale’s will once again donate 10 percent of shoppers’ tracked barcode sales on Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. back to the organization. The five Bloomingdale’s Florida stores participating in this event are located at the Aventura Mall, the Boca Raton Town Center, The Gardens Mall in Palm Beach Gardens, The Falls in Miami and The Mall at Millenia in Orlando.

Visit Hadassah.org for more information on this women’s Zionist organization.