



March-April 2023  
Adar/Nisan/Iyar 5783

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# THE SCHRIER

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF WEST PASCO  
Home of Congregation Beth Tefillah

## Shabbat Dinner

Please join us on Friday, March 3, 2023 for a  
**VERY SPECIAL SHABBAT DINNER** as  
we celebrate the 105th birthday of  
**MARY GAINES!**

At 6:30 pm we will have a short Shabbat  
service followed by accolades to Mary and  
then a delicious dinner. The cost for this  
special evening is:

Members \$25.00  
Non-members \$30.00

Please have your RSVP and monies into  
the office by Thursday, February 24.  
Hurry, time is short!

There will be no Shabbat dinner in April  
due to Passover.

## MARCH-APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Monday 3/6 6:30pm  
Ice Cream Social  
and 7:30pm Reading  
of the Megillah
- \* Sunday 3/12 Day-  
light Saving Time
- \* Monday 3/13 JCC  
Board Mtg. 7pm
- \* Sunday 3/20 First  
day of Spring
- \* Wednesday 4/5 1st  
Seder
- \* Thursday 4/6 2nd  
Seder
- \* Monday 4/10 JCC  
Board Mtg. 7 pm

Shabbat Services  
Conducted by Ron Becker and Elliot Shapiro

EVERY FRIDAY EVENING AT 7:30 PM  
EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT 9:30 AM  
Alan Goldberg, Rabbi Emeritus

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**-by Eileen Hochstadt

### **Seven Wonders of Jewish History**

Shared with us by Rabbi Asher Resnick and Motty Berger, from [Aish.Com](http://Aish.Com)

#### **Seven remarkable milestones that defy historical patterns and fulfill ancient prophecies.**

Imagine an alien landing on this planet. On his first day here, he witnesses two events: the parting of the Red Sea and the birth of a baby. Which would he say is the greater miracle? Most aliens would say that the birth of a child seems a greater miracle than the parting of the waters. However, if we asked you whether the birth of a child is a miracle, you might not agree. Why is that? Because childbirth happens all the time, about every seven seconds or so in this country. When something happens all the time, we take it for granted and think it's natural. But when we look at it, as an alien, we can see what an incredible miracle it is.

Now let's look at Jewish history from a similar perspective, putting aside any prior knowledge we have. Do the events of our nation throughout the past 3000 years seem like ordinary events, or is something unique and perhaps miraculous going on here?

As a matter of fact, let's pretend we've never even heard of the Jewish people. And let's decide: Are these events coincidental or providential? King Louis XIV once had an interesting discussion with the famous 17th century Roman Catholic philosopher and mathematician, Blaise Pascal. The king asked Pascal to show him evidence of the supernatural, and Pascal responded. "*The Jews, Your Majesty, the Jews!*" Everyone who studies Jewish history perceives that there's something unique about it. What many people don't know, however, is that the unusual and illogical course of Jewish history was predicted in detail in our Torah. Let's examine seven phenomena unique to Jewish history and seven prophecies precisely forecasting these phenomena. Then it'll be up to you to evaluate whether these events could have occurred through the natural channels of human history or whether, perhaps, someone's been pulling the strings, behind the scenes.

#### **WONDER #1: THE JEWISH PEOPLE ARE ETERNAL**

In Bereishis 17:7, G-d promises Abraham that the Jewish people will be eternal. G-d says: "*And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you, throughout the generations, an eternal covenant to be your G-d, and the G-d of your descendants after you.*" Now we all know that treaties are only as good as the two sides who keep up their part of the bargain. If one party bails out, the treaty is void. What will happen if the Jews don't keep their covenant with G-d?

Take a look at this prophecy: "*Yet even so, even while they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject or spurn them, lest I break My covenant with them by destroying them, for I am their G-d. I will remember them because of the covenant I made with their forefathers, whom I brought out of the Land of Egypt under the eyes of the nations, so that I might be their G-d.*" (Vayikra 26:44-45) In other words, even when things go sour, even when the Jewish people stop following the Torah, the covenant will not be breached. G-d promises that this relationship will exist forever.

Now if you're at all familiar with world history, you'll notice right away that this is a very strange prediction. After all, nations rise and fall. They don't exist forever. Do you know any Edomites personally? Anyone have a good friend who's a Moabite? History has seen the rise of many powerful civilizations: the Persians, the Babylonians, the Moabites, the Edomites, the Romans. But they've long since disappeared.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 2**

Why would the Torah predict eternal survival for the Jewish people? Even more strange, how is it that the Jews, a civilization way older than the Persians or the Babylonians, are, indeed, still around? Many people have noticed this strange phenomenon. One of the most famous is Mark Twain who wrote an essay called "Concerning the Jews" (The Complete Essays of Mark Twain, p. 249): *"The Egyptian, the Babylonian, the Persian, rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dreamstuff and passed away. The Greek and the Roman followed, made a vast noise and they are gone. Other peoples have sprung up, held their torch high for a time, but it burned out and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal, but the Jew. All other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?"* Leo Tolstoy, a believing Christian, also wonders about this. He writes (Jewish World, London, 1908):

*"The Jew is the emblem of eternity. He whom neither slaughter, nor torture of thousands of years could destroy, he whom neither fire, nor sword, nor inquisition was able to wipe off the face of the earth; he who was the first to produce the oracle of G-d, he who has been for so long the guardian of prophecy and who transmitted it to the rest of the world. Such a nation cannot be destroyed. The Jew is as everlasting as eternity itself."*

Have you heard of a book called: *"The Protocols of the Elders of Zion"*?

The Protocols is a book that claims to be the minutes of secret meetings held every hundred years by Jewish rabbis around the world, for the purpose of plotting the course of world history for the next hundred years. The Protocols, by the way, has sold more copies than any other book in history, except the Bible. Why do people swallow it? People have hated blacks, people have hated Orientals, but you don't find books called "The Protocols of the Elders of Motown." Somehow, *"The Protocols of the Elders of Zion"* makes sense in people's minds. People read the book and think, "Yes! Those Jews get together every hundred years and plan out world history!" Somehow, in their collective consciousness, the world has noticed that we Jews are always around.

Paul Johnson, a non-Jewish historian, wrote a bestseller called *A History of the Jews*. At the end of the book, he gives us a thesis as to why the Jews have survived so long: *"The Jews believed that they were a special people, with such unanimity and passion, over so long a span of time, that they became one."* In other words, it's a self-fulfilling prophecy.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

3/3	Shabbat Dinner/Services 6:30 pm	4/4	Search for chometz (evening)
3/4	Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm	4/5	Erev Pesach-1st Seder
3/6	Bingo 11 am	4/6	2nd Seder
3/6	Ice Cream Social 6:30 pm Reading of the Megillah 7:30p	4/7	Religious Services 7:30 pm
3/7	Purim	4/8	Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm
3/10	Religious Services 7:30 pm	4/10	Bingo 11 am
3/11	Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm	4/10	JCC Board Meeting 7 pm
3/12	Daylight Saving Time begins	4/13	Religious Services & Yizkor 9:30 am
3/13	Bingo 11 am	4/14	Religious Services 7:30 pm
3/13	JCC Board Meeting 7 pm	4/15	Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm
3/17	Religious Services 7:30 pm	4/17	Bingo 11 am
3/18	Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm	4/18	Yom Hasho'ah
3/20	First day of spring	4/21	Rosh Chodesh
3/20	Bingo 11 am	4/21	Religious Services 7:30 pm
3/23	Rosh Chodesh	4/22	Rosh Chodesh
3/24	Religious Services 7:30 pm	4/22	Earth Day
3/25	Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm	4/22	Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm
3/27	Bingo 11 am	4/24	Bingo 11 am
3/31	Religious Services 7:30 pm	4/25	Yom Hazikkaron
4/1	Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm	4/26	Yom Ha'atsma'ut
4/3	Bingo 11 am	4/28	Religious Services 7:30 pm
		4/29	Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm

## Candle Lighting Times



March 3	6:14 pm
March 10	6:18 pm
March 17	7:22 pm
March 24	7:26 pm
March 31	7:30 pm
April 7	7:34 pm
April 14	7:38 pm
April 21	7:42 pm
April 28	7:46 pm

# Hanukkah 5783



**A great time was had by all!**

**Thank you to everyone who helped decorate, cook, serve and clean up.  
This evening wouldn't have happened without your hard work.**



## INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SHABBAT DINNERS

You probably noticed that we have increased the price of our Shabbat dinners. Our January, 2023 dinner was the first dinner since B.C.E. (Before the Covid Era) and we had to feel our way with the cost of food, paper goods, etc. Now we have some experience under our belt which necessitated our modest price increase. In addition, we now have tiered pricing. Members' costs are less than non-members' cost. Another benefit of JCC membership!

We have a cut-off date for RSVPs and receipt of monies for a reason. Chef Jeff who prepares the delicious dinners must know how many are attending so that the proper amount of food can be purchased and prepared.

If you haven't made your RSVP and paid for your dinner, you are ALWAYS welcome to join us for Shabbat services and the program (e.g. speaker), however there will not be a meal for you.

We hope this does not cause any problems and we appreciate your understanding.

Please visit the JCC's web page at:

[jccwestpasco.com](http://jccwestpasco.com)  
(our new and easy-to-remember site!)

Find us on Facebook, too  
(and don't forget to 'like us').

Visit Our  
Website



## Celebration of Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

On January 28th,  
President Eileen Hochstadt  
celebrated the anniversary of her  
Bat Mitzvah and chanted  
the Parsha Bo.  
Coincidentally, Bo was  
the Torah portion for  
Gregory Cohen's Bar Mitzvah.

Congratulations to you both!

# PURIM

**On Monday evening, March 6th we will have an ice cream social at 6:30 pm and then step inside the sanctuary for the reading of the Megillah at 7:30 pm.**

**All are welcome.  
Costumes are also welcome.**

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS  
SUNDAY, MARCH 12.  
"SPRING FORWARD"**



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 3**

Two problems immediately emerge. First of all, does anyone here think Jews can believe *anything* with unanimity? You've heard the expression, "Two Jews, three opinions"? (As a matter of fact, we were once in Phoenix, Arizona, and a teacher said, "You know how it is - two Jews, three opinions...", when a gentleman raises his hand and, in all seriousness, says, "Rabbi, I heard it was *three* Jews, *four* opinions." The teacher looked at him and said, "Thank you, Sir. You've just proved my point!") Second - does it make sense that only the Jews willed themselves into becoming an eternal nation?! And all the other nations thought, "Nah, that's okay. We've gone on long enough. Suppose it's about time to get conquered and become extinct..." Finally, even if the Jews *did* believe they were an eternal people, does simply believing something make it so? If I just keep *believing* I'm a doctor, will I eventually become one? Obviously things don't work that way. Nations don't will themselves into destruction. Neither do they will themselves into becoming an eternal nation.

## **WONDER #2: DISPERSION**

The fact that we are an eternal nation becomes even more amazing when we consider that the Jews don't even possess the basic characteristics that define a nation: Land, language and history.

Do the Jewish people have a land in common? Well, for 2000 years, the vast majority of the Jewish people never set foot in the land of Israel. All other nations in the world had a land in common that they settled and lived in, but for the majority of our history, the Jews never had a land to call their own. Israel was a common dream, yes, but not a common land.

Now how many of you speak Hebrew? How many speak it well? For the vast majority of our history, most Jews didn't speak the language. Sure, the Torah portion was read aloud in Hebrew, in shul, but the spoken languages were Aramaic, Ladino, Yiddish, French, English and many others.

How about a common history? Well, you've got to go pretty far back in time to get to one. For the last several centuries, Jews have been scattered across the globe. We certainly don't have a history in common. So, not only are the Jewish people poor candidates for being an eternal nation - without a common land, language or history - we're hardly candidates to be any kind of nation at all!




(So as not to bisect a paragraph, we will stop here. More of this article will appear in the next issue of The Schrier.)

**ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION,  
WE WISH RON BECKER A SPEEDY RECOVERY.**



# March 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 88 6:14 pm Shabbat Dinner & Religious Services 6:30 pm	4 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Tetsaveh</i>  Bingo 5 pm
5	6 11 AM BINGO 6:30 pm Ice cream Social. 7:30 pm Reading of Megillah Fast of Esther	7  Purim	8  Shushan Purim	9	10 88 6:18 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	11 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Ki tissa</i>  Bing 5 pm
12  Daylight Saving Time Begins	13 11 AM BINGO  JCC Board Meeting 7 pm	14	15	16	17 88 7:22 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	18 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vahakhel &amp; Pekudei</i>  Bingo 5pm
19	20 11 AM BINGO 1st Day of Spring 	21	22	23	24 88 7:26 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	25 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Vayikra</i>  Bingo 5 pm
26	27 11 AM BINGO	28	29	30 	31 88 7:30 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	



# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Tsav</i> Bingo 5 pm
2	3 11 AM BINGO	4 Search for chometz	5 5 <sup>th</sup> 7:33 pm First Seder Erev Pesach	6 6 <sup>th</sup> after 8:27 pm Second Seder	7 7 <sup>th</sup> 7:34 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	8 Religious Services 9:30 am
9	10 11 AM BINGO JCC Board Meeting 7 pm	11 11 <sup>th</sup> 7:36 pm	12 12 <sup>th</sup> after 8:30 pm	13 Religious Services & Yizkor 9:30 am	14 14 <sup>th</sup> 7:38 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	15 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Shemini</i> Bingo 5pm
16	17 11 AM BINGO	18 Yom Hasho'ah	19	20	21 21 <sup>st</sup> 7:42 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm Rosh Chodesh	22 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Tazria &amp; Metsora</i> Rosh Chodesh Bingo 5 pm
23	24 11 AM BINGO	25 Yom Hazikkaron	26 Yom Ha'astma'ut	27	28 28 <sup>th</sup> 7:46 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	29 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Aharei mot &amp; Kedoshim</i> Bingo 5 pm
30						