

# B O L E T I N

# Lo Nuestro

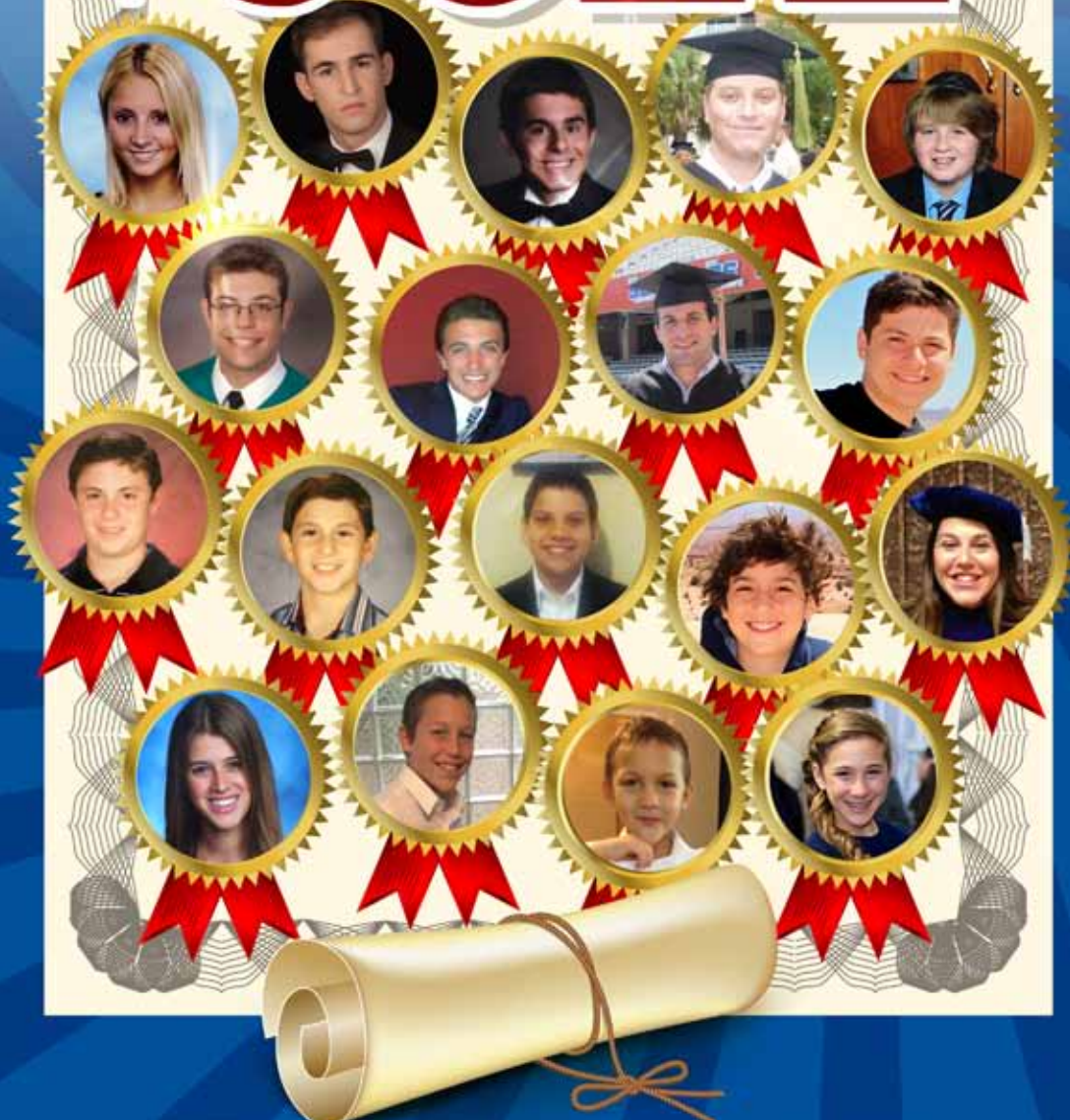
THE SEPHARDIC CONGREGATION OF FLORIDA | TEMPLE MOSES

SIVAN 5774 • TAMUZ 5774 • AV 5774

JUNE 2014 • JULY 2014 • AUGUST 2014

*Celebrating our graduates!*

# 2014



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## Message from the

# Rabbi



**Rabbi Daniel Hadar**

Immediately before G-d gave the Ten Commandments, the Torah describes the lights and sounds the people experienced. They saw lightning and heard thunder. In fact, according to the Midrash, they somehow heard the lightening and saw the thunder as well.

After Matan Torah (the Giving of the Torah), a nearly identical experience is described, but this time, the wording is slightly different. It says they saw torches and heard the thunder. Why is there this difference? What is the significance of the change from lightning to torches?

Our rabbis offer a fascinating and profound insight. The change in visualization symbolizes a spiritual transformation in the way the Jewish people perceived holiness, and this transformation was a direct result of the experience of receiving the Torah.

Before the Torah was given, spirituality could be achieved only through divorcing oneself from the world. All human souls yearn for transcendence; everything yearns to return to its source. Our source is G-d, and therefore, it is a natural human urge to yearn for the Divine, for meaning. However, the only way to achieve this in the pre-Sinai world was to separate from the physical. This form of spirituality is compared to a lightning flash. It allows you to reach a very high level, but then, like the lightning, that flash of transcendence is followed by total darkness – because human beings inevitably must eat, must sleep and must live in the material world. We still see this in non-Jewish spirituality, where people take vows of celibacy and poverty, or remove themselves to a mountaintop.

After the Torah was given, the image was no longer of the lightning, but of the torch. That image is a much different one. And it is a somewhat tragic image, in its way. A torch will never give the brilliant light of a lightning bolt. But a torch is steady and enduring. The lesson the people learned through receiving the Torah was that spirituality could indeed be contained in daily life. The physical world, the mundane, could be elevated and infused with the spiritual. They were not mutually exclusive. We serve G-d not only when we learn or pray, but also in the way that we eat or drink, conduct our business, earn and spend our money, raise our children and relate to our spouses. Every activity of life can be, and must be, invested with depth, significance and meaning. Yes, the daily life of carpools and laundry and board meetings will not offer the transcendence of the moment on the mountaintop, but if one can understand the purpose of even the mundane, then life can hold a holiness that will far outlast the bolt of lightning.

No one would navigate a road filled with dangerous turns by lightning. Even with a torch, it is difficult. But a torch provides the steady light, the warmth and comfort, to help us navigate the difficult turns in life and make it safely to the comfort of home.



# *Message from the President*

Temple Moses Board of Directors



**Roberto Behar**  
President

Dear members,

I begin my letter to you with a powerful thought that will carry through the theme of my words, “Change is always scary, yet it has proven to be the secret to our new found success.” Recently at Temple, change has been embraced with a positive attitude, seen as an opportunity to live with greater excitement and fulfillment and that in return has allowed us to grow as a community and bring back the light and the prosperity that Temple Moses once knew. It allowed for a transformation that is so immense that it has been spreading like wildfire throughout the communities. Temple Moses is back and it is stronger than ever.

The renovations are moving along with great care and attention to detail. The surface has been stripped of old and is being replaced by new, however, the original structure, the soul of our building will shine brighter than ever. Countless hours of hard work will be revealed on Saturday August 23rd which will be the inaugural gala that will celebrate Temple Moses’s 34th year in existence and will honor those from our community that have made this “change” possible.

As we will celebrate this milestone, I can’t help but think about how significant this “change” will be in shaping the future of our younger generations. The leaders of tomorrow that will be taking over the great honor of preserving our Temple. With the end of the school year quickly approaching, I want to congratulate this year’s graduating students from our community and encourage them to dream big. Don’t let someone else define possible or impossible.

This is an extremely exciting time of “change”, and I am honored to be part of such a significant movement. I wish everyone a wonderful summer and look forward to enjoying the future holidays and simchas with family and friends.

*Roberto Behar*

## MENSAJE DE VICTORIA RODRIGUEZ

COMITE DE DAMAS VICTORIA ADOUTH



### *Lo Nuestro*

Hace algunos años, cuando Estrella Mitrani era la editora del Boletín, le sugerí ponerle nombre al mismo y de ahí surgió Boletín “Lo Nuestro.”

En el Templo Moses, podemos aplicarle “Lo Nuestro” a casi todo lo que hacemos en el mismo; ya que cada actividad que se lleva a cabo es muy peculiar nuestra. Por ejemplo, los Shabath dinner son algo muy especial, donde como nadie, reunimos a más de 300 personas en una noche. En los servicios religiosos del sábado, tenemos un coro que es algo muy nuestro donde un grupo de miembros entonan las más bellas melodías Sefaradíes a los que son llamados a la Tevía.

En el Boletín “Lo Nuestro,” se detallan todas las actividades llevadas a cabo en nuestra sociedad, además de honrar, informar, felicitar, etc. a nuestros miembros. Los equipos de pelota organizados por el Rabino, también son algo muy nuestro. El Comité de envíos de preciosas tarjetas es también muy Nuestro.

Que me dicen de las borrecas donadas por algunos de nuestros miembros para ser degustadas al final de los servicios del viernes por la noche. ¿No es eso algo muy nuestro?

Y para finalizar, no podemos olvidar a uno de los departamentos de suma importancia para el Templo, me refiero a Nuestra Cocina. ¿Quién no ha saboreado las deliciosas borrecas, bulemas, bizcochos, etc. etc. que preparan con tanto amor las señoras de la cocina? Es impresionante observar todos los martes, a un grupo de damas, que dedican un sin número de horas en elaborar esas inigualables exquisiteces, muy nuestras, que perpetúan nuestra cultura y costumbres Sefaradies, contribuyendo además a sufragar los innumerables gastos del Templo.

Sintámonos orgullosos de pertenecer al Templo Moses, asistamos a sus actividades sociales y religiosas. Contribuyamos monetariamente en lo que esté a nuestro alcance para cubrir sus innumerables gastos. Todos y cada uno de nosotros estamos obligados a ayudar y participar en todo porque el Templo Moses es “Nuestro Templo.”

*Victoria Rodriguez*



# CICLOS DE LA VIDA

## MAZAL TOV A

---

### **Rebecca and David Notik**

*For the berit milah of their son and we extend our congratulations to their grandparents Esther and Moises Behar, Leah and Mendel Notik*

### **Rubisa Oziel**

*For the Henna of her daughter*

### **Isaac and Zoila Lagari**

*For their 50th wedding anniversary!*

### **Soshana and Aryeh Hochner**

*For their wedding and we extend our congratulations to their parents Sabetai and Ruth Yahya and Rabbi Elias and Marci Hochner*

### **Jacob Dueñas**

*On his Bar Mitzvah taking place in Puerto Rico! We extend our congratulations to the proud parents Marquie and Nanette, to his sisters Sarijane and Veronica Dueñas, as well to his grandparents Moises and Veronica Maya and Jacobo and Sara Dueñas and great-grandmother Anita Maya.*

### **Gilda and Adan Flam, and grandmother Emily Romano**

*For the birth of their new baby girl "Liana Emily Flam" who was born May 18, 2014 and we extend our congratulations to her aunts and uncles Fortune and Kevin, David, Mayte, cousins Mila, Jacob and Aime as well as to the baby's big brother Isaiah!*

### **Magalit and Joe Saka, as well as the rest of the Saka family**

*For the birth of their new baby daughter!*

## CONDOLENCIAS A

---

### **Sara Kaplan, Raquel Motola, and Corina Maya**

*For the passing away of their beloved father, grandfather and brother Salomon Faro, Z"L*

### **Victoria, Jaime, Julio, Samuel and Fortuna Bitton**

*For the passing away of her beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather Abraham Bitton, Z"L*

### **Chema, Sabeto and Moises Maya**

*For the passing away of their beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister Dora Maya, Z"L*

### **Jaime, Julio, Samuel and Fortuna Bitton**

*For the passing away of their beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother Victoria Bitton, Z"L*

### **Adela Pitchon, Diana Behmoiras, Lillian Behar, Elisa Wagner, and Lea Pitchon**

*For the passing away of Moises Pitchon, Z"L, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother*

### **Ela Crespín and the Crespín Family**

*For the passing away of Enrique Crespín, Z"L*

## REFUAH SHELEMA A

---

*Efraim Tache, Pepe Esquenazi, Jose Ergas, Jose Nae, Gershon Hirsh ben Chana*

*Sara, Shoshana bat Chaya, Henry Mitrani, Luna Mitrani*

## FLORES DONADAS POR

---

### **Hilda and Dr. Salomon Mitrani- Sevy and Rosa Mitrani**

*In loving memory of the daughter and sister Violeta Mitrani, Z"L*

### **Isaac and Zoila Lagari**

*For their 50th wedding anniversary*

### **Fortuna and Tommy Grohslicht and Moises Eskenazi**

*In loving memory of Corina, Abraham and Moshe Eskenazi, Z"L*

### **Eugenia Behar**

*In loving memory of Simba Vulisa Naon, Z"L*

### **Raquel Oev**

*In loving memory of her husband Salvador Oev, Z"L*

## KIDDUSH DONADO POR

---

### **Reina Del Castillo**

*In loving memory of her beloved husband Raul Del Castillo, Z"L and her son Alberto Del Castillo, Z"L*

### **Emily Romano**

*In loving memory of her beloved husband and father Israel Romano, Z"L*

### **Moises and Esther Behar**

*In loving memory of Acher Behar, Z"L*

### **Aryeh and Shoshana Hochner**

*In honor of their wedding!*

### **The Behar family and friends**

*In honor Isidoro Behar, Z"L anyo special event*

### **Israel Magrisso**

*In loving memory of Elisa Magrisso Z"L*

*Welcome*  
*to our New Members*

**Louis Whitesman**

**Elisa (Biton) Policar**

# TARJETAS ENVIADAS

Por Colaboración de Elisa Benrey y Nelly Egozi (nellyegozi@gmail.com)

## Get Well to

### Jose Ojalvo

Clara and Efrain Tache  
Esther and Moises Egozi

### Perla Egozi

Esther Garazi

### Efrain Tache

Julie and Jose Ojalvo

### Jose Ergas

Esther and Moises Egozi

### Todd Brandon

Sarita Egozi

### Luna Mitrani

Compañeras de Cocina

## In Sympathy

### Daisy's Mother

Esther and Roberto Mitrani

### Marsha Silverstein's

Father, Z"L

Esther Garazi

### Salomon Faro, Z"L

Julia Choeff and Maria Klokman  
Jaime and Matilde Givner and  
Violeta Fintz  
Esther and Moises Egozi  
Julie and Jose Ojalvo  
Perla and Elias Tacher

### Abraham Bitton, Z"L

Rosita and Rene Betancourt  
Esther and Moises Egozi  
Esther Garazi

### Dora Maya, Z"L

Jaime Mitrani  
Julie and Jose Ojalvo  
Alberto and Alvah Motola  
Esther Vlosky  
Esther and Moises Egozi  
Clara and Efrain Tache (2)  
Perla and David Egozi  
Dora Maya (Leon)

Esther Garazi

Matilde and Jaime Givner  
Rosita and Rene Betancourt (2)  
Reina del Castillo  
Perla and Elias Tacher

### Victoria Bitton, Z"L

Esther and Moises Egozi  
Esther Garazi

### Dra. Fortuna Mantel, Z"L

Reina Haft

### Sara Yuken, Z"L

Sarita Egozi  
Esther Garazi

### Moises Pitchon, Z"L

Tia Fanny and Andy Ostrov

### Marjorie Matalon, Z"L

Esther and Roberto Mitrani

### Moises Chorowsky, Z"L

Victoria Rodriguez

### Enrique Crespin, Z"L

Perla y David Egozi  
Tia Abuela Graciela Maya

## Mazal Tov to

### Esther and Moises Egozi

Rosita and Miguel Bassan

### Raquel Fialkoff

Esther Vlosky

### Isaac and Zoila Lagari

Victoria Rodriguez

### Victoria Rodriguez

Ladies Club  
Isaac and Zoila Lagari

Commemorate you and your family's legacy  
on our monumental

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## BORRECCAS DONADAS

**Esther and Didier Choukroun (3)**

**Julie and Jose Ojalvo (2)**

**Perla Tacher (3)**

*Lag Ba'omer borrecas and filas donated by Perla Tacher in memory of her mother Luisa Cheni Z"L*

*Shabbat borrecas donated by Perla Tacher in memory of her grandmother Perla Maya Misdraji Z"L*

**Isaac and Zoila Lagari**

*In honor of their grandchildren's birthday, Lucia Zoe and Jacob Isaac Libhaber*

**Michael Behar**

*In honor of his first wedding anniversary*

**Mildred Menda**

*In loving memory of her father Alberto Menda, Z"L*

**Jose Nae**

## Upcoming Events

August 23rd, 2014

### **Temple Moses 34th Anniversary**

**Inaugural Gala**, celebrating the grand opening of our brand new re-designed ballroom and lobby!

### "Capitol Campaign"

We would like to announce that we are launching a major capitol campaign to raise funds for the building of the structure that is currently taking place and for future building that we want to do soon. Our synagogue is growing and developing and our building has to grow and develop along with it. In the next several months we will be contacting you to get you involved with this very important initiative.



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Vice President

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**Fax: (305) 362-5847**

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# Spring



*Por Estrella Esquenazi*

El domingo 23 de marzo del 2014, fuimos bendecidos con un clima maravilloso, el cual nos permitió con éxito tener

una gran asistencia en el Oleta Park, gozamos de un día de reencuentro entre familiares y amigos que esperan con agrado nuestro tradicional Picnic como parte de los festejos de Purim y así hacerlo un día diferente en el que los niños tuvieron, juegos, regalos y expertos que les pintaron sus caritas.

Como ustedes ya saben, las señoras que integran el grupo de la cocina, trabajamos arduamente por días enteros para poderles llevar a sus paladares las codiciadas borekas, bulemas y biscochos las cuales están siempre a la venta durante todo el año en nuestra cocina.

El Comité de Damas les agradece a todos ustedes por enviarnos sus cheques para los tickets de la rifa, para la cual nos esforzamos en adquirir el mayor número de regalos y certificados posibles para esta ocasión.

También agradecemos las donaciones que nos brindaron, ya que son de gran beneficio y ayudan a cubrir gran parte de los gastos que lleva este evento.

No podría pasar por alto el mencionar a la Sra. Susana Gonte Chairman del Picnic que por tantos años se esfuerza en contactar a todos ustedes solicitándoles sus donaciones y platillos. También a la Sra. Perla Tacher, chairman de la cocina.

Queremos darles las gracias a todas y cada una de las personas que trabajaron y nos ayudaron para hacer posible que este evento se pudiera realizar, ya que esto no podría lograrse sin la ayuda de todos ustedes.

Les deseamos que D'os les de mucha salud y bienestar para que por muchos años puedan seguir apoyando a que el día del Picnic sea un día especial para todas las familias que forman parte de nuestra Sinagoga Sefaradi, Templo Moses.





# PICNIC 2014

## NUESTRO AGRADECIMIENTO A NUESTROS BENEFACTORES



**ESTHER AND DIDIER CHOUKROUN  
ISABEL AND DR. ALBERTO MORJAIM  
DR. ISIDORO MORJAIM**



**Y A NUESTROS DONANTES DE REGALOS PARA LA RIFA,  
COMIDAS PREPARADAS ESPECIALMENTE  
PARA EL PICNIC Y TODO TIPO DE DONACIONES**

Alegre Barrocas  
Eugenia Behar  
Fortuna Behar  
Rick and Ronit Behar  
Robert and Marisol Behar  
Elisa Benrey  
Rosita Betancourt  
Zelda Bigelman  
Rosita Caspi  
Julia Choëff  
Dalia Cohen  
Katherine Crespín  
Raquel Crespín  
Danny and Grace DelCastillo  
Reina Del Castillo  
Kathy Dorfman  
Moises and  
Esther Egozi  
Nelly Egozi

Perla Egozi  
Rafael Egozi  
Estrella Esquenazi  
Bellita Franco  
Sammy and Regina Franco  
Matilde Givner  
Sarita Godur  
Gini Gonte  
Susana Gonte  
Hortensia Gonzalez  
Dora Hasday  
Millie Heres  
Raquel Kubiliun  
Isaac Lagari  
Henry Maname  
Dora Maya (Leon)  
Grace Maya  
Luisa Maya  
Sarita Maya

Veronica Maya  
Fortuna Menda  
Esther Mitrani (Janoko)  
Roberto and Esther Mitrani  
Alberto Morhaim  
Jaime Motola  
Magali Naon  
Diba Obadia  
Julie Ojalvo  
Victoria Rodriguez  
Rebecca Salti  
Sally Silber  
Matilde Surujon  
Amada Susi  
Elias and Perla Tacher  
Eugenia Tachmes  
Raquel Tuati  
Women's Committee



**GRACIAS A TODOS POR SU GENEROSIDAD!!**



# Lag Baomer 2014

By Dalia Cohen

Lag Ba'Omer 2014 was comprised of two very special and memorable events. On Saturday night, Temple Moses partnered with the whole Sephardic Community and gathered in Aventura for the lighting of a huge bonfire that emulates the celebrations taking place in Eretz Israel. The Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Yosef honored us with his presence and beautiful words of inspiration right here in Miami. Music, Food, Bounce houses and crowds of families surrounded the bonfire and took part of the lighting of the bonfire which was lit by our honored guest Rabbi Yosef. This incredible evening lasted well past midnight! We would like to thank the Rabbi and the entire Aventura Sephardic community for their incredible work on making this event possible. The Temple Moses legacy candle lighting ceremony took place on Sunday Night. This very inspiring evening was dedicated to honoring the great Hahamim of our Sephardic

heritage. Cuban, Turkish, great historical Rabbis, our fathers and the great women of our history were respected with a powerful description of how they contributed to our Sephardic heritage and their influence on our lives. A very special thank you to Mr. Jose Ojalvo who chaired the event with great success, Elias & Perla Tacher for sponsoring the delicious filas & borrecas, Susana Gonte & Raquel Crespín for working so hard to prepare the beautiful tables, Daniel DelCastillo for our capturing the special moments with his beautiful photography and Dalia, Diana & Belinda for organizing the gorgeous candles and working with the community to make sure that everyone has a beautiful candle to light to honor their loved ones and the great Rabbis. We hope to expand this event in the future to raise awareness of this beautiful tradition so our younger generation can participate and get inspired by this spiritual experience.







**Es motivo de gran alegría anunciarles el nacimiento de**


# Liana Emily Flam

el pasado 18 de Mayo, 2014.

Nos unimos a la felicidad de sus padres, Gilda y Adam y su "big brother" Isaiah. Bendiciones de su abuelita Emily Romano, sus tíos Fortunee y Kevin, David, Mayte, y prima Mila, Jacob y Aimee.



## Celebrando su Primer Cumpleaños!




Con el amor de sus padres, Gilda y Adam, nuestro niño se vio rodeado de las familias Flam y Romano, festejando su primer año de vida. Recibe de tu abuelita Emily todas las bendiciones y mi inmenso cariño.

# Congratulations!



Congratulations to Dara Del Castillo for receiving the National Junior Honor Society award for 2014, presented by Scheck Hillel Community day School. Your hard work paid off and we are so proud of your achievement. Proud grandmother Reina Del Castillo, proud parents Dr. Daniel & Grace Del Castillo, sister Aliya, and proud grandparents, Gaston & Dora Maya. We love you very much.

## NOODLE KUGEL food network



**Ingredients**

- 1/2 pound wide egg noodles
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla
- 1/2 stick butter, melted
- 1 pound cottage cheese
- 2 cups sour cream
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 6 eggs
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup raisins

**Directions**

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.

Boil the noodles in salted water for about 7 to 8 minutes. Strain noodles from water. In a large mixing bowl, combine noodles with remaining ingredients and pour into a greased, approximately 9-by-13-inch baking dish, sprinkle some cinnamon and sugar over the top.

Bake until custard is set and top is golden brown, about 60 minutes.

# *The Grandchildren of Esther and Salomon Garazi Z"Q*

---

*Dr. Esther Garazi Desai* • Tufts University, University of Miami

*Joseph Solomon Garazi* • South Florida University

*David Michael Garazi* • Boston University



*Daniel C. Schoonover* • University of Florida

*Rebecca F. Schoonover* • University of Florida

*Solomon B. Schoonover* • University of Florida

*Esther R. Schoonover* • University of Florida

*Congratulations to our youngest graduate*



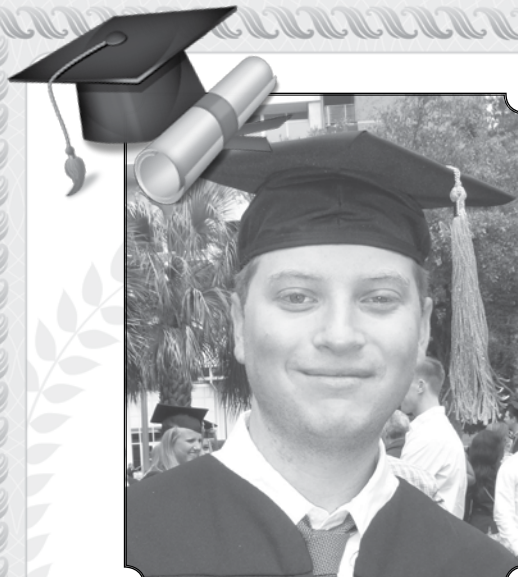
*Esther R. Schoonover* • University of Florida





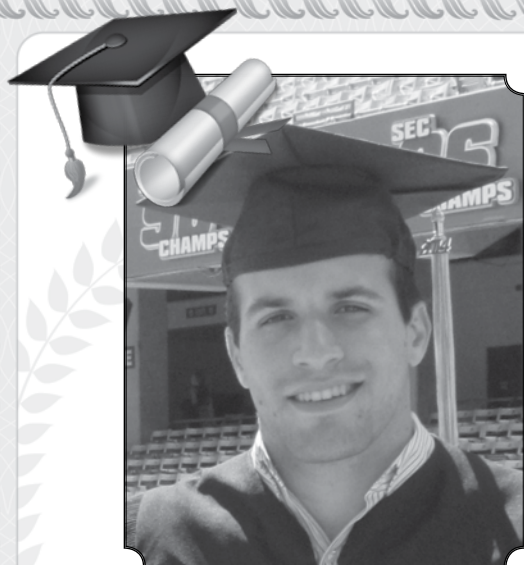
## ***Miriam Schlesinger Sadovnik***

Juris Doctorate, Cum Laude from Nova Southeastern University. Congratulations on this huge accomplishment, your husband Kevin Sadovnik, your children Aaron and Victoria, your mother Violet Crespin and abuela Raquel Crespin.



## ***Harry Cutler***

Bachelor in Sports Management with a minor in Business from the University of Florida. Will seek a law degree at the University of Florida School of Law. Congratulations! We are very proud of your accomplishments. We love you, Abuelo Israel and Abuela Zelda.



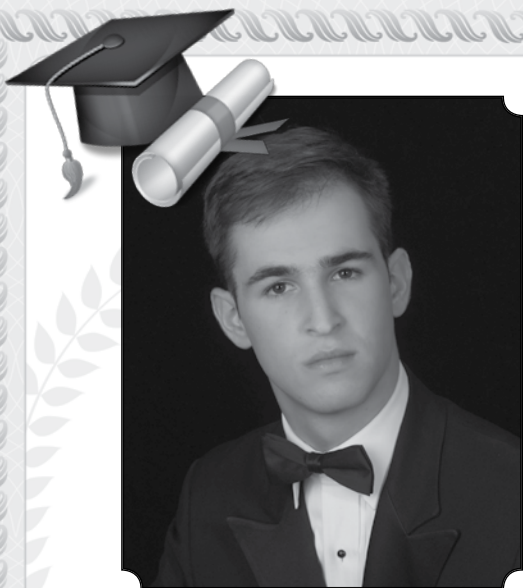
## ***Robert Raul Del Castillo***

Graduated from The University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. Mazal tov, we are very proud of you and your accomplishments! With much love, grandmother Reina Del Castillo, and grandparents Magaly and Sammy Naon.



## ***Dayle Lloyd***

Associate's degree in Health Sciences from Florida Atlantic University. She will pursue a carrier in Physical Therapy. Congratulations! We are very proud of your accomplishments. We love you, Abuelo Israel and Abuela Zelda.



## ***Jacob Crespín***

Jacob is graduating from Miami Beach Senior High School and will be attending his first year of college in Valencia, Spain through a First Year Abroad Program of the Florida State University. He is majoring in Business and Entrepreneurship. Mazal Tov to his parents Vick and Katie Crespín and grandparents Raquel Crespín and Raul Crespín Z"L.



## ***Joseph Silber***

Mazal tov to our first grandson Joseph and to his parents, Sally and Raul Silber, on your graduation from University School at NSU. We are so proud of you and of all of your accomplishments! May you continue to succeed in every step of your life and have Hashem's blessings to guide your path always. We love you!

Abuelo Jose and Abuela Julie, and Abuela Rosa



## ***Adam Tache***

Congratulations to our grandson Adam and his parents Beth and Robert for the graduation with honors and in the top 5% of his class from Cypress Bay High School and for being accepted to Duke University

We love you - Abuela and Abuelo Tache



## ***Cameron Behar***

Mazel Tov to Cameron on graduating from RKB Bay Harbor Middle School! Keep reaching past the stars and we are certain you will change the world! Knock 'em dead next year at Mast Academy

Virginia Key.

Love,

Mommy, Daddy, & Kyle



## ***Shira Chana Hadar***

Graduated from eighth grade at Bait Yaakov Miami.

Mazal tov Shira Chana!





***Ralph Motola***

Graduating from Bay Harbor Islands School  
He is the son of Sara and Jimmy.  
With love,  
Keyla, Joshua and abuelos Estrella and Rafael



***Jaime Siperstein***

Congratulations to Jaime upon his graduation from Middle School and for being invited and accepted to join the International Baccalaureate High School Program (IB)  
Grandma Sari and Abuelo Jaime Behar



***Jake Tickner***

Graduating from Aventura City of Excellence School.  
Jake will be attending University School of NSU in the fall.  
Best Wishes Always,  
Mom, Dad, David & Grandma Libby



***Kyle Behar***

Mazel Tov to Kyle for graduating RKB Bay Harbor Elementary School. Your achievements amaze us whether its academics, sports, or just being a superstar!  
Good luck next year at RKB Bay Harbor Middle.  
Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, & Cameron



***Shmuel Yosef Hadar***

Graduated from sixth grade at Yeshiva Elementary School.  
Mazal tov Shmuel Yosef!



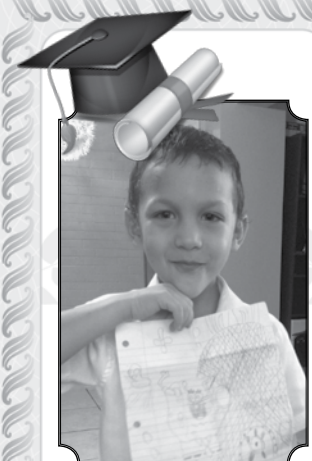
***Yehoshua Sapharti***

Congratulations to Shuy for graduating elementary school and moving on to middle school at Ben Gamla Plantation. We love you and are so proud of you.  
Mom, Albert, Jessica & Moshe



***Kenny Siperstein***

Congratulations to Kenny for graduating from Cooper City Elementary School with honors.  
Grandma Sari and Abuelo Jaime Behar



***Noach Sion Hadar***

Graduated from Kindergarten at Moses Montessori.  
Mazal tov Noach Sion!



# Un kafiko kon... Estherita Garazi

Por Belinda Behar

We have this kafiko today with the matriarch of one of our community's prominent families. Esther Egozi Bejar de Garazi or, as most know her: "Estherita", welcomes me to her home. She is surrounded by beautiful orchids and warm good taste

I'm not going to dwell much on the history for soon hers truly will tell it better in her memoirs, how it all started, from Manzanillo, after Hasköy and Silivría (in today's Istanbul), the history of this family that converged with the Garazi's of Siria from the day when they met, became friends and later fell in love...it all began during board elections for the Macabi youth group on Prado Street. Salomón Z"L was elected that day... with the vote of young Esther of course!

Many decades later, family pictures of the couple, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren displayed in every corner of this home, give testimony of the brightest treasure in Estherita's life: her precious family. Did you know that Estherita obtained a degree in Landscaping Design at Broward Community College? She went to college right after her daughter Blanqui graduated high school! That is perseverance and an aim to never let go your dreams!

As to how she got involved with Templo Moses, it all started from the time when the Cuban Sefardim attended services at "la cuevita" - our first humble locale on Washington Avenue. One day, Estherita received an invitation from Victoria Adouth Z"L to have ... a kafiko with the Ladies of the Good Will!

To access "la cuevita", you had to go down a long dark and narrow corridor. She tells me that the more she walked, the more apprehensive she felt however, as they emerged from the hall, the sight of 4 or 5 elderly ladies, old friends of her mother, Blanca Z"L, seated together savoring bizcochos and talking, as they did every afternoon, greeted her. This image of old friends linked by ties such as common history and roots, moved her so much that right then and there the rest of her life

would change ... for the benefit of this community! From that moment forward, at the request of Victoria Adouth Z"L, she started trying to create a group of young couples. It would soon evolve into what is today's Women's Committee... as the men did not want to participate with them!

By 1969 Esther is elected as their first president. She stays in charge for a year and later on comes back to the post in order to work intensely helping with the events surrounding Temple Moses inauguration of its new building. Between both periods as president she works on the creation of the adult education classes, picnics, parties, art auctions and our tenor Isaac Salinas' first concert. During those years there are enough funds raised to be able to purchase the building next door, where our kitchen is today.

There is a popular saying that behind every great man, there is an extraordinary woman. When we think about one of our "grandes", Salomón Garazi Z"L, we cannot forget that his first and foremost support came from his mate, his best friend and his most enthusiastic fan, our dearest Estherita.

The evening went by smoothly with such rich and animated conversation that could fill a long article sprinkled with very interesting anecdotes. In any case, I sip this chocolate-flavored kafiko and count our blessings for having in our community ladies of the caliber of our dear Esther Garazi.



## **Nota:**

***A las personas interesadas en obtener el kafiko en español, pueden solicitarlo por e-mail a [esther@celestefootwear.com](mailto:esther@celestefootwear.com) o llamando a mi celular 305 609-0902 y con mucho gusto se les enviara.***

## A New Treatment for Sinus Problems

Millions of Americans suffer from chronic or intermittent sinus problems. Symptoms can include nasal congestion, facial pressure or pain, post nasal drip, nasal discharge, and recurrent infections. Numerous medications are available for treatment, both over the counter and by prescription. Even with use of medications, however, many patients remain symptomatic some or all of the time. And even the best medications can often have unwanted side effects.

In the past, people who failed medical therapy could be treated with surgery. While endoscopic sinus surgery is effective, like all operations it necessitates time off from work for post operative recovery, causes pain during healing, and has risks of significant, although mostly rare, complications. Because of this, many patients who could be helped with surgery were hesitant to have it done.

Recently, a new technique for surgical treatment of sinus disease was developed. Called balloon sinuplasty, it is a method of opening up blocked sinus drainage pathways by placing a tiny balloon through the nose into the sinus opening and inflating it, then removing the balloon. Like angioplasty in heart arteries, it is designed to dilate open partially or completely blocked channels, in this case to help the sinuses return to normal health.

Initially done only in the operating room, balloon sinuplasty can now be done in the doctor's office under local anesthesia. This well tolerated procedure is much less invasive than endoscopic sinus surgery and therefore is not only less risky but also has a much quicker recovery. The procedure usually takes under an hour and most patients can return to work within a couple of days. Furthermore, the vast majority of patients get significant relief of their nasal symptoms which has been shown to last for at least two years after the procedure.

Not all sinus sufferers, however, are candidates for the balloon treatment. Those with large polyps, a badly deviated septum, fungus in the sinus, or certain other situations may still need more traditional sinus surgery. If you are suffering from persistent or recurrent sinus problems, please seek evaluation by an ear, nose and throat physician. Lasting relief may be available as close as the doctor's office.

Moises Mitrani, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Carl Drucker, M.D., F.A.C.S.





# Shavuot

By Deena Hadar

One of the top three Jewish Holidays is right around the corner. Shavuot coming up next week as well as Sukkot and Passover fall into the category of Shalosh Regalim - the three holidays that the Jewish people go up to Jerusalem and carry out the laws and customs of the holiday in the Beit Hamikdash. With no Beit Hamikdash, we no longer go to Jerusalem three times a year for these holidays. We celebrate them wherever we are.

Passover and Sukkot have something in common. They are both represented by something physical and powerful which carries the message of the holiday. Passover is represented by the Matza, the poor man's bread that we eat on Passover to remind us of what we ate when leaving Egypt. Sukkot is represented by the Lulav and Etrog which we shake during the holiday of Sukkot or the Sukkah where we dwell for the holiday.

But, what about Shavuot!

There is seemingly nothing to represent Shavuot!

I like to think of Shavuot as the school holiday. No, not because school is just about over but because Shavuot actually represents OUR common Jewish high value - Education!

Every Jewish Parent is on top of their child's education! Every identified Jewish home has bookshelves that have books in them! Every Jewish person has an innate desire to learn and grow. It's part and parcel of us.

On Shavuot we - all the Jewish people - both born and not-yet-born - received the Torah. The value of Education and Jewish continuity was at that time imprinted on our souls.

Throughout Jewish Communities, the world over, you will find this strong commitment to Education and that is represented and celebrated on this holiday of Shavuot.



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Lo Nuestro • 21



# Jewish Life in Today's Krakow, Warsaw, and Berlin

By Moises and Esther Egozi

**KRAKOW** - On our recent trip to Poland and Germany, we decided to see how large the remaining Jewish populations are in those countries.

While visiting Krakow, Poland, and simultaneously referencing the internet for information, we found there were few tour options dedicated to current Jewish life. The only tours that existed were visits to the Auschwitz Bikernau Concentration Camp. We took the well organized tour on a dreary, rainy morning.

The next day, we found a little trolley offering tours about Jewish Krakow. During the tour, we visited the Remu Syangoga (an entrance fee is required) and noticed it was simply a tourist attraction at this point. According to the Times of Israel, they only hold services once a year during Synagogue week in June. Only two artifacts remained inside, a tevah and an aaron akodesh with no hint of a torah.

On another day, we visited Oskar Schindler's factory. They were many Jewish tourists accompanying us, but only as few as 200 were living there in Krakow.



**WARSAW** - after a 3 hour train ride, we arrived in Poland's Capital where we searched for information about the current state of Jewish life there. One day we visited the Nozyk Synagogue and were told it was the only synagogue that was not destroyed during WW2. As we entered, we noticed Rabbi Michael Schudrich in the middle of a conference with a large group of young visitors from Australia. After he finished speaking with them, we asked him what a seemingly shy American rabbi was doing in Poland. He responded by saying "it was insanity". He explained that as young man in the 1970's he visited the country with a group of American teenagers and was impressed by the rich history of Jewish life there. He returned to Warsaw in 2000 as a rabbi and was later appointed to be the chief rabbi in that city in 2004.

Next, we visited the Jewish Museum and it had an impressive exhibit of Jewish history in Warsaw during WW2. From there we went to the New Museum of Jewish Living. It was a large complex with a beautiful glass façade surrounded by statues. Unfortunately, we could not enter because it closes on Tuesdays.

Outside of the building, we met an Israeli born Rabbi, Avraham Haim from one the Sephardic synagogues in Istanbul. He was also trying to convince the guards to let us visit inside, but with no luck.

Our last stop was the Progressive Synagogue Beith Polska of Warsaw, located on the outskirts of the city. It is 2 story house converted into a small Temple. There we met Rabbi Haim Beliak. He explained to us that they are a very small community, but have a school and summer camp for the children.



**BERLIN** – after a 5 hour train ride, we arrived at our last stop. We first visited the New Synagogue Berlin Centrum. It has seating for 3,000 people and was inaugurated in 1866. Later it was destroyed by the Nazis in 1938. We were under the impression that it was completely rebuilt in the last few years due to its fine condition, but found out that only a part of the building was rebuilt and is now used as a museum that hosts the most prominent exhibits.

Next, we also visited the Berlin Holocaust Memorial designed by American architect, Peter Eisenman. It is laid out on 4.7 acres near the Brandenburg Gate. It was highly impressive. Later on a Friday night, we went for Shabbat Services at the Tiferet Israel. It is the only Sephardic Orthodox synagogue in town. There were 18 members present at the time, lead by Rabbi Awaraham Daus from Yemen. The services reminded us of our own Temple Moses. After the services, we were invited to a Kiddush where we were able to meet some of its members. They were all of different nationalities. They consisted of Azerbaijanis, Moroccans, Israelis, and Russians. None of them spoke Ladino. We talked to the English speaking ones and asked their thoughts on living in Berlin. Was there any anti-Semitism? They answered by saying “it is the same as any other country”. They mentioned that there has recently been an influx of young Israelis working in Germany looking for better opportunities.

As a side not, we were happy to see there were many school children visiting Jewish museums and sites during our stay to both cities.





B O L E T I N

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