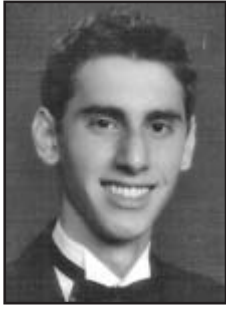


**Super students ...**

**Joshua Slone**, son of Dr. Sherman Slone and Eileen Jacobs of Clearwater and grandson of Shirley Stubensky of Dunedin, graduated as valedictorian for the Class of 2010 at Tarpon Springs High School. Joshua will be attending the University of Pennsylvania in the fall. He is a graduate of the Pinellas County Jewish Day School.



☆☆☆

**Tatiana Baccari** has been accepted at the prestigious NYU Atlantic Acting program in the Tisch School of the Arts. Before heading to New York, Tatiana is spending the summer at an arts workshop on Martha's Vineyard. She has performed with the Miami City Ballet and has been in major roles on the Shorecrest Preparatory stage. You also may have heard her chant Torah and Haftarah as a member of the Golden Kippah Honor Society at Congregation B'nai Israel. Proud parents are **Barbara Baccari** and **Eric Weston** of Belleair.

**Sincerely yours,**

*Judy*

**Judy Ludin**

**Welcome to the world...**

**Lila Beth Behar**, born March 10, to **Pamela and Aaron Behar** of Tampa. She weighed 6 pounds and was 19<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches long. Proud big sister is **Sari**, 3. Lila is the granddaughter of **Debbie and Morris Behar** of Oldsmar and **Cheryl and Jeffrey Cohen** of Atlanta. She is the great-granddaughter of **Pauline Rophie** of Clearwater, **Matilde DuBord** of Oldsmar and **Pearl Cohen** of Atlanta. A naming ceremony was held June 13 at Congregation Rodeph Sholom, where she was given the Hebrew name Leah Bayla in memory of paternal great-grandparents, **Leo and Beverly Shreiber**.

*P.S. As always, I'm looking forward to hearing from you about all your family simchas. Photos are welcome, too. Information can be sent to: Sincerely Yours, P.O. Box 6970, Clearwater, FL 33758, e-mailed to jewishpress@aol.com or faxed to (727) 530-3039.*

## Jewish Federations in North America campaign against Israeli bill to halt automatic citizenship

The Jewish Federations of North America, with the Jewish Agency and other partners, are leading a concerted and high-profile advocacy campaign to stop a bill in the Knesset that could prevent some Diaspora Jews from gaining automatic Israeli citizenship as immigrants.

These efforts are the latest phase of an initiative that began this winter, when a Knesset member pro-

posed revising the Law of Return. Though the change was initially aimed at giving local Israeli rabbis greater authority, it carried the potential effect of threatening to delegitimize those who converted to Judaism through the Conservative and Reform movements and preclude conferring citizenship under the Law of Return to those who did not qualify for such status on prior visits.

On July 11, the Knesset member, David Rotem of the Yisrael Beiteinu Party, advanced a newer version with stronger language giving the Orthodox-run Chief Rabbinate full control over conversions in Israel and urging that any convert "accepts the yoke of mitzvot according to halacha."

The Knesset Law Committee approved the bill on first reading, sending it to the full Knesset, where it would require three readings and approval before becoming law.

The Jewish Federations of North America's President and CEO Jerry Silverman, Senior Vice President Rebecca Caspi, and JAFI Chair Natan Sharansky, along with representatives of the liberal religious

streams, immediately began a major advocacy campaign to prevent the measure from advancing.

JFNA is also urging Federations to appeal to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the issue.

This advocacy involves daily strategy meetings, attending the Knesset committee session, meeting with Knesset members, including Rotem, and speaking out publicly through Israeli and international media.

In addition, the JFNA has sent Prime Minister Netanyahu two strongly worded letters urging him and members of his Likud Party to speak out publicly against the proposal. Until now the prime minister has not done so, though he did reportedly tell *The Jerusalem Post* he thought the bill would not pass.

Silverman, Caspi and the 125 members of the JFNA Campaign Chairs & Directors Mission who were visiting Israel last week, also met with Israel's President, Shimon Peres, about this issue.

Peres called for greater dialogue on the proposed bill so that discussions embrace both Diaspora and Israeli Jews.



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## Obituaries

**IRVING BELSKY**, 78, of Clearwater, died June 27. He was born in Detroit and had served in the Navy. He was a member of Temple Ahavat Shalom in Palm Harbor. Survivors include his wife, Sondra; children, Marc and Sandy Belsky, Andrew and Janet Belsky, Robin and Leonard Jacobson, Mark and Leslie Goodman, Stuart and Elaine Goodman and Mindee and Michael Zack; 15 grandchildren and one great-grandson. (Sylvan Abbey Funeral Home)

**JOSEPH BERMAN**, 93, of South Pasadena, died June 18. He was born in Argentina and was a Navy veteran of World War II. He was the owner of a food distribution company. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, Beth David Chapel)

**DIANE C. CANTOR**, 58, of Dunedin and Lake Oconee, GA, died June 19. Survivors include her husband, Neil, and her son, Neil Cantor II. The family suggests memorials may be made to the American Heart Association. (Segal Funeral Home, Beth David Chapel)

**CHARLES W. EHRlich**, 65, of St. Petersburg, died June 20. Born in Istanbul, Turkey, as his mother was fleeing Nazi occupied Europe, he immigrated with his family from Munich, Germany, to Mays Landing, NJ, where he graduated from Oakcrest High School. He attended Dickinson College, where he received his Bachelor of Arts, and was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, played on the football and baseball teams, and later became a member of the College Sports Hall of Fame. He was one of the first Head Start teachers in New Jersey before moving to Florida to attend law school. He graduated from Stetson Law School in 1971 and served as an assistant State Attorney until 1973. He opened his sole practitioner office in 1974 and was recognized nationally in Martindale Hubbell's register and locally received the Pro Bono Award from the St. Petersburg Bar Association. He was president of the Jewish Community Center of Pinellas County, vice-president of the Jewish Federation of Pinellas County, a co-founder and president of the Academy Prep Foundation, president of the Arts Center of St. Petersburg, president of the Canterbury School of Florida; member of the Board of Advisors of Dickinson College, legal counsel to Mental Health of South Pinellas County, vice-president and legal counsel of the Pinellas Opportunity Council, vice-president of the Quarterback Club of St. Petersburg, hearing officer of the St. Petersburg Human Relations Board and legal counsel for the Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health. Survivors include daughter, Jessica Ehrlich; his mother, Jeanette Winogron; brother, Joseph Ehrlich; his companion of 15 years, Sandi Pearl Ehrlich. The family suggests memorials to the Charles W. Ehrlich Memorial Scholarship at Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA.

**RONALD KEITH GILBERT**, 62, of St. Petersburg, died July 6. A native of St. Petersburg, he was a graduate of Boca Ciega High School. He worked in his family's jewelry store, Gilbert Jewelers, for over 40 years. Survivors include his two daughters, Candace and Kimberly; parents, Thelma and Jerome Gilbert; two brothers, Mark Gilbert and Scotty Gilbert. The family suggests memorials to PARC. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, Beth David Chapel)

**JANE P. JACOBS**, 89, of Largo, died July 10. She was born in Hull, MA, and grew up in Brookline, MA. She moved to Florida in 1997. Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Roberta and Dan Mockensturm; son, George Jacobs; sister, Virginia Footer; five grandchildren and one great-grandson. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, Beth David Chapel)

**CLARA I. KIRSNER**, 91, of Gulfport, died June 26. A native of Worcester, MA, she was a homemaker. Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law, Carole and Frank Kalman and Linda and James Sigel; son and daughter-in-law, Barry and Dorothy Kirsner; sister, Ruth Freedman; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**KENNETH LEVIN**, 86, of The Villages, formerly of Terre Haute, IN, died June 26. A native of Terre Haute, he graduated from Harvard and then attended Northwestern Law School, graduating with his Juris Doctorate in 1951. He then received his Masters of Tax Law degree from New York University. He first worked for the Justice Department tax division for seven years, and then went into private practice in New Mexico and later in Terre Haute. He practiced law for over 50 years. He was also an Army veteran of World War II. Survivors include his wife, Barbara; his children, Michael and Tami Wolf, Palm Harbor, Kimberly and Art Collins, Lutz, and David and Julie Wolf, Snoqualmie, WA; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, Beth David Chapel)

**WILLIAM "BILL" LIVESAY**, 73, of Clearwater, died July 11. He was born in New Castle, PA, and moved here with his family 58 years ago. He was a graduate of Clearwater High School and went on to have a long career in banking. Survivors include his wife of 25 years, Carol; stepchildren, Laura Babcock, Oldsmar, and Richard and Veronica Schoenbrun, Tampa; three granddaughters. The family suggests memorials may be made to the Advanced Health Care Centers Employee Appreciation Fund in Clearwater or the Suncoast Hospice.

**SHIRLEY MILLER**, 70, of Seminole, died June 16. Born in Albany, NY, she worked as an Art Consultant. (David C. Gross Funeral Homes, Beth David Chapel)

**FRONA "VICKI" ROSE**, 75, of Oldsmar, died June 18. She was born in Baltimore, MD. Survivors include her children, Terry Schlosberg, Wayne and Katherine Rose, Gary and Karen Rose and Carole and Richard Liebman; and two grandchildren. The family suggests memorials may be made to the Suncoast Hospice or the Jewish National Fund. (Sylvan Abbey Funeral Home)

**SHULAMITH SALEM**, 85, of Pinellas Park, died June 11. Born in Israel, she was a writer and an artist. In 1989 she took a work-oriented trip to Russia, where she had several meetings with Kremlin members and made appeals on behalf of imprisoned physicist Dr. Boris Genis. In 1990 she was awarded a commendation by the Ohio legislature for contributions to revisions of the Ohio divorce code. She later helped introduce a bill emphasizing changes in the tax laws for artists, writers and filmmakers. Survivors include three sons, Michael Salem, Rutland, VT, Ronald Salem and partner Jason Nguyen, Santa Ana, CA, Jonathan and his wife, Angela Salem, Tampa; brothers, Shmuel Rechavia, Tel-Aviv, Israel, and Reuven Rechavia, Hertzelia, Israel; and two granddaughters.

**DEBORAH VERNICK**, 76, of Largo, died June 8. Born in Detroit, MI, she moved to Florida in 1976. She was a member of Temple Ahavat Shalom in Palm Harbor, a lifetime member of Hadassah and belonged to Brandeis. Survivors include her three sons, Mark Vernick of Seminole, Alan Vernick of Lutz and Steven Vernick of Boston, MA; brother, Jerry Knoppow, West Bloomfield; seven grandchildren. (Curlew Hills Memory Gardens)

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