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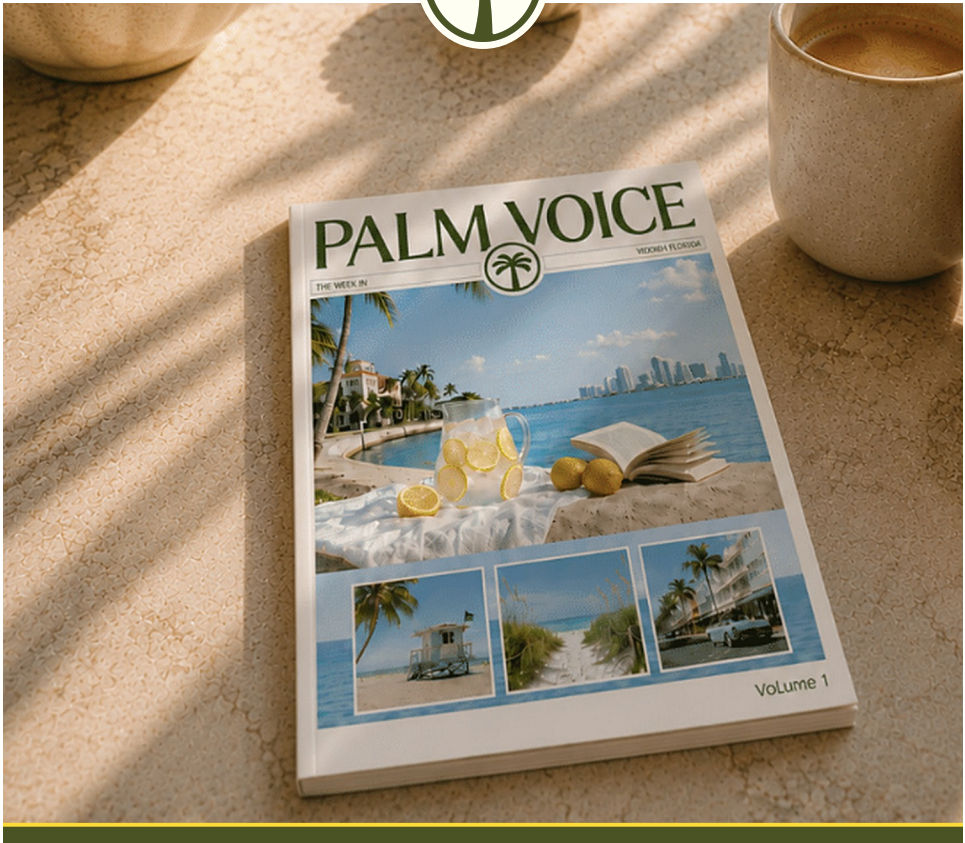
PALM VOICE

Issue 2 · October 16, 2026

פרשת נח · ה' חשון תשפ"ז



The Heartbeat of Jewish Florida

LOCAL ZMANIM ON PAGE 3

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Our Voice – Editorial

It's been a week since our yeshivos and schools opened their doors again to welcome and embrace our children and grandchildren as they start a new *zman*, a new semester. It's been a week since we watched them leaving, by the window, the bus stop, the airport, waving, blowing kisses, with a *tefilla* on our lips. Hashem, watch over them, bring them home safely, and please grant them the gift of *mechanchim* and *mechanchos* who find the key to their hearts, the combination code to stimulate their intellects, and the ability to reach, connect and inspire.

As parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents (yes!), we have so many opportunities to make these transitions easier and more pleasant. Showing excitement and genuine interest in their day, their friends, their teachers, goes a long way in making them feel cared for and valued. We each have our own parenting or grandparenting style, but we can infuse all our interactions with our children or *einiklech* with expressions of love, warmth, and our faith in them, in the language that is unique to us alone. We each have our own versions of a hug, literally and figuratively, that stays with them throughout the day.

In today's digital age, the handwritten word, actually putting pen to paper, is a valuable treasure. A note can be read and reread, savored and saved, and speaks volumes of how important the person you are writing to is. Recognizing a handwriting is an instant familiar connection to a dear one. May we be *zoche* to watch our next generation strive and thrive, grow and accomplish, as they bring *nachas* to the *Ribono Shel Olam*, to their parents, and to themselves!

We hope you enjoy the second issue of The Palm Voice and look forward to hearing *your* voice.

—the Editors

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The Week

Parshas Noach · 6 Cheshvan 5787

הדלקת הנרות

Miami Beach	6:33 PM	Palm Beach	6:32 PM
Aventura	6:33 PM	Okeechobee	6:35 PM
Hollywood	6:33 PM	Tampa	6:41 PM
Boca Raton	6:33 PM	Orlando	6:36 PM

Zmanim

City	עלות	נץ החמה	קריית	חצות	שקיעה	ר"ת	מוצש"ק
Miami Beach	6:08 AM	7:20 AM	10:12 AM	1:05 PM	6:50 PM	8:02 PM	7:40 PM
Aventura	6:08 AM	7:20 AM	10:13 AM	1:05 PM	6:50 PM	8:02 PM	7:40 PM
Hollywood	6:08 AM	7:20 AM	10:13 AM	1:05 PM	6:50 PM	8:02 PM	7:40 PM
Boca Raton	6:08 AM	7:20 AM	10:13 AM	1:05 PM	6:50 PM	8:02 PM	7:40 PM
Palm Beach	6:08 AM	7:20 AM	10:12 AM	1:05 PM	6:49 PM	8:01 PM	7:39 PM
Okeechobee	6:12 AM	7:24 AM	10:16 AM	1:08 PM	6:52 PM	8:04 PM	7:42 PM
Tampa	6:19 AM	7:31 AM	10:23 AM	1:14 PM	6:58 PM	8:10 PM	7:48 PM
Orlando	6:15 AM	7:27 AM	10:19 AM	1:10 PM	6:53 PM	8:05 PM	7:43 PM

Weather

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
89°/ 81°	89°/ 79°	88°/ 76°	84°/ 76°



News

A Sign of Our Times

Boca Raton, FL — The local South Florida *kehillos* are filled with immense *hakaras hatov* following a tense situation in Boca Raton that, *baruch Hashem*, ended safely.

The disruption occurred when a security alert was triggered by a threat called into The Betty and Marvin Zale Early Childhood Learning Center, prompting local law enforcement and campus security to immediately evacuate the preschool. Once again, the terrifying reality of antisemitism was felt deeply on the local front in our South Florida community.

Neighboring *chinuch* facilities, including buildings shared on the Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center campus and Donna Klein Jewish Academy, followed strict safety procedures while the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) conducted a thorough investigation.

B'chasdei Hashem, the authorities quickly determined that there was no credible threat, allowing all the children and faculty to remain safe and reunite smoothly with their families.

Early Neitz Hachama

Tampa Bay, FL — The pre-dawn sky over Tampa Bay lit up with a breathtaking display as the Falcon 9 rocket roared out of Cape Canaveral on its CRS-35 cargo mission.

Because the 6:33 a.m. liftoff took place in total darkness, just 45 minutes before sunrise, the event triggered a spectacular, glowing space phenomenon.

Early Florida risers and commuters had a perfect eastward view as the rocket climbed out of the Earth's shadow. High-altitude sunlight caught the expanding exhaust plume, turning it into a brilliant, iridescent cloud of blues, pinks, and golds that hung over the bay long after the rocket vanished into orbit.

Florida, Ahead of the Pack

Miami, FL — When it comes to common-sense education policy, the rest of the country is slowly realizing that the Florida way is the right way. This week New York Governor Kathy Hochul followed Florida's lead and opted into the new federal scholarship tax credit, a program Florida joined from day one.

For Florida's Jewish families, it means real help with the cost of yeshivas and day schools. Because Florida opted in, students here can receive the scholarships, starting with the 2027–2028 school year. Anyone who donates to a qualified scholarship organization gets the gift back as a federal tax credit, up to $1,700 a person or $3,400 for a married couple.

Florida's Jewish community leaders thanked the state for signing on early. For families facing the high cost of tuition, this program is a historic lifeline.

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A Celebratory Opening for Lakefront Estates



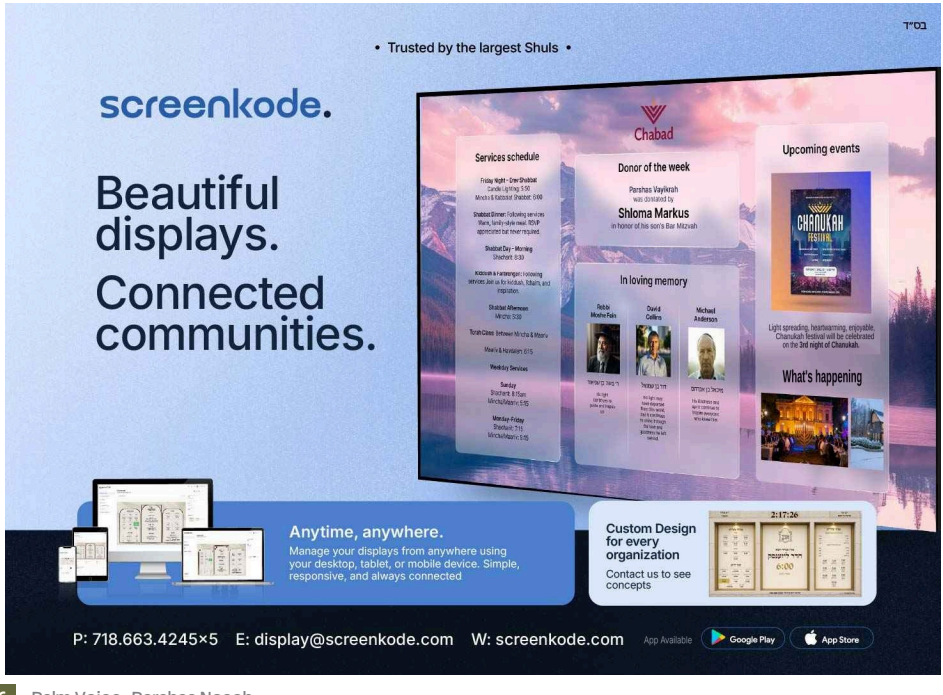
Okeechobee, FL — In the long-awaited milestone to develop the Lakefront community, the first 80 families have moved and settled into their new homes *baruch Hashem*.

Monday, October 12, the opening of the school and *cheder* were celebrated with singing and dancing in the streets in a festive atmosphere. The children were welcomed to their temporary school building and were greeted warmly by their *rebbeim* and staff.

In an unfortunate incident, a local individual posted an antisemitic video targeting the development and the festivities.

Florida's Attorney General and other top law enforcement officials visited the community and promised to ensure their safety at all times. They expressed their support and enthusiasm for the new development and its eventual growth.

We, at the Palm Voice, wish all new residents *hatzlacha* and smooth beginnings as they set down roots and establish the *chassidish* enclave of Lakefront Estates.





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A Word of Wisdom

All That Is Needed to Sustain an Entire World

This week's parasha tells the famous story of *Noach ish tzaddik* – Noach, the lone righteous man in a sinful generation. Because of his righteousness, he was saved from the flood that Hashem brought upon the world, after being instructed to build an ark that would preserve him, his family, and the remnants of all living creatures.

The renowned *Rema MiPano*, Rav Menahem Azarya of Fano (Italy, 1548–1620), offers a striking insight. According to his teaching, the *neshama* of Noach later became vested in Yosef. This, he explains, is why both figures are given the title *tzaddik*. In the opening verse of the parasha, Noach is described as an *"ish tzaddik tamim,"* and throughout Jewish tradition, Yosef is known as *"Yosef HaTzaddik"*.

Indeed, many parallels link these two towering figures in the history of *Klal Yisrael*. Perhaps the most significant is that both sustained the world during a time of profound crisis and collapse.

Noach sustained humanity and the entire animal kingdom within the ark during the devastation of the flood.

Yosef, centuries later, sustained Egypt and the surrounding nations during the years of severe famine, using his wisdom and foresight to preserve life.

Both men stood alone in their righteousness, surrounded by moral decay – Noach in a generation steeped in corruption, Yosef in the morally challenging environment of Egypt. Yet each remained steadfast, and through their integrity, they became the channels through which Hashem preserved the world.

Another shared theme is that both Noach and Yosef were entrusted with provision and survival. Noach was commanded to gather and store food for all living beings in the ark. Yosef, interpreting Pharaoh's dreams, oversaw the storage of grain that would later feed millions. Their righteousness was not only personal; it manifested in their ability to care for others and ensure the continuity of life.

The *Rema MiPano's* teaching reminds us that the soul's mission can echo across generations. The qualities of a *tzaddik* – moral clarity, resilience, compassion, and the ability to sustain others – are timeless. Whether in the form of Noach weathering a literal flood or Yosef navigating the metaphorical floods of exile and power, the righteous person becomes the foundation upon which the world stands.

Sometimes, all that is needed to sustain an entire world is one person who chooses to live with integrity.

(Adapted from Rabbi Eli Mansour, Edmond J. Safra Sephardic Shul in Brooklyn)

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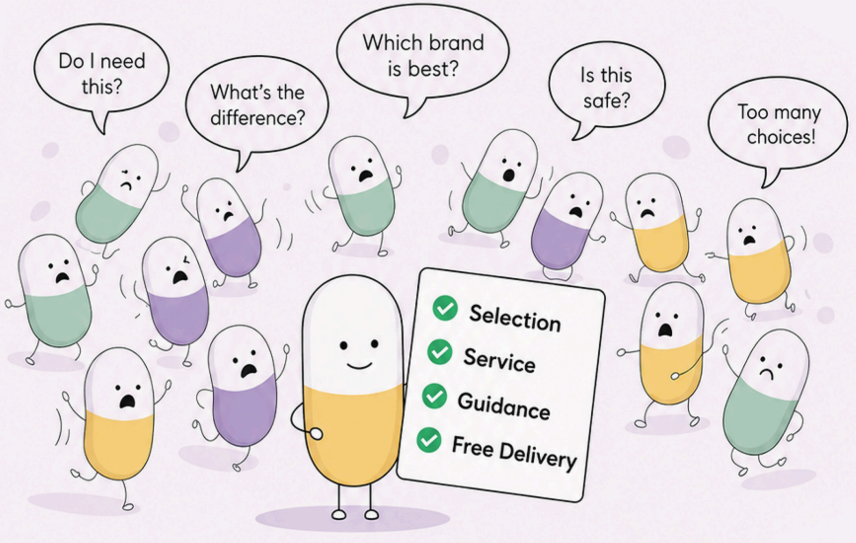

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Palm Prose

Help! Perel the Poet wrote a beautiful poem, but it became a jumbled mess.

The first lines in each stanza stayed in their original places.
All the other lines stayed in the right lines, but they landed in the wrong paragraphs.
Can you unscramble the poem and put the lines back in the correct stanzas?

Remember! The poem must be grammatically correct.
All the 2nd and 4th lines must rhyme, and the proper rhythm must be kept.
You may not change any words.

Good luck!

If you wake up in the morning
On a long and endless queue
All the mountains and vast oceans
Has a value, too

If you look around the world
And galaxies and stars
And you've proven to yourself
That this world is all for you

If you've ever watched a person
And you reach and teach and do
And you've learned that every process
Is a blessing in disguise

If you've ever stood in waiting
And you rub your tired eyes
Then you're certainly aware
That you're a speck, and so is Mars

If you've wondered about planets
Confronting his own fear
And you notice that your struggles
Full of possibility

If you hear and see and feel
And you see all you can be
And you've reached the conclusion
That your ability is there!

See answers on page 13


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Our History

A Series · Part 1

The Sunshine State's Jewish Awakening: A History of Vision, Resilience, and Growth

Have you ever wondered how Florida transformed *from a sparsely populated, swampland territory into the vibrant powerhouse of American Yiddishkeit we see today? What drove the massive influx of Jewish residents over the last few years into the bustling neighborhoods of Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties? And how did a region that once barred Jewish settlement become home to the highest percentage of Jewish residents outside of Eretz Yisrael?*

In this new series, we will explore the history and settlement of our beloved hometown.

On a quest to understand the events that led to the remarkable growth of Yiddishkeit in Florida, Rabbi Menachem Levin, CEO of JDBY-YTT (Joan Dachs Bais Yaakov-Yeshivas Tiferes Tzvi) in Chicago, conducted extensive research into the state's rich Jewish history. His findings reveal a surprising narrative—one where grand visions became realities, and where Jewish communities triumphed over unexpected hardships and antisemitism to build a historic haven of Jewish life.

According to Rabbi Levin's research, South Florida now boasts a massive Jewish population of approximately 650,000 residents, cementing its status as the third-largest Jewish community in the United States. Remarkably, Jewish individuals account for 13 percent of the region's total population.

But this thriving reality did not happen overnight. Rabbi Levin traces the roots of this boom back to the very beginning of the state's history.

Florida's Early History: Preserving Faith Under the Radar

The story begins in 1513, when Juan Ponce de León claimed Florida for the Spanish Crown. Under the restrictive rules of the Spanish Inquisition, practicing Jews were strictly forbidden from settling the land, and only Catholics were permitted to live there.

Despite these heavy dangers, historical evidence suggests that Jewish *Conversos* (crypto-Jews) were among the very first soldiers and settlers to walk the streets of St. Augustine, quietly maintaining their heritage in secret.

A major shift occurred in 1763 under the Treaty of Paris, when England acquired Florida from Spain. With British rule came religious tolerance, opening the door for open Jewish residency. The historical record highlights the very first documented Jewish settlers to arrive in Pensacola: Alexander Solomons, Joseph D. Pallaccios, and Samuel Israel.

While a few more Jewish individuals moved into northern Florida over the following decades, the population remained incredibly small, counting only about a dozen people.

Follow the events that unfolded in next week's issue of The Palm Voice.

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If you wake up in the morning
And you rub your tired eyes
And you notice that your struggles
Are great blessings in disguise

If you've ever stood in waiting
On a long and endless queue
And you've learned that every process
Has a value, too

If you look around the world
And you see all you can be
All the mountains and vast oceans
Full of possibility

If you've wondered about planets
And galaxies and stars
And you've reached the conclusion
That you're a speck, and so is Mars

If you've ever watched a person
Confronting his own fear
And you've proven to yourself
That your ability is there

If you hear and see and feel
And you reach and teach and do
Then you're certainly aware
That this world is all for you!

ANSWER FOR PALM PROSE

Weather Watch

Reflection

A Modern-Day Deluge as a Reminder

Tampa, FL — There is a well-known tradition from *Chazal*, *hakriah me'orer es hazman*—that the weekly Torah reading possesses the unique power to awaken and relive its inherent spiritual energy in our own time.

This profound concept resonates deeply this week. As Jewish communities worldwide prepare to read *Parashas Noach* and recount the ancient waters of the *mabul*, the State of Florida experienced its own stark reminder of nature's power.

Hurricane Isaias made landfall last Friday near Destin in the Florida Panhandle as a Category 2 storm. Yet, amidst the anxiety, our communities were *b'chasdei Hashem* miraculously spared from what could have been a statewide catastrophe. Residents across the Sunshine State are expressing immense gratitude and relief that the storm's path spared the most densely populated regions from total destruction.

For our neighbors in the Panhandle, however, the hurricane brought significant devastation. The storm's path left widespread power outages, severe flooding, and at least four reported fatalities in its wake.

A look at the impact and response:

- **Landfall:** Isaias struck the Florida Panhandle as a Category 2 storm, centering its fury primarily on Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties.
- **Damage & Casualties:** The storm claimed at least four lives, knocked out power to thousands of homes, and left coastal communities grappling with severe wind damage, storm surges, and major flooding.
- **Relief Efforts:** Emergency response teams and faith-based relief organizations, including God's Pit Crew, Samaritan's Purse, and Operation Compassion, have rapidly deployed volunteer teams, clean water, and emergency provisions to the hardest-hit areas to assist in the long recovery ahead.

Classifieds & Announcements

Minyanim & Shuls — Century Village, West Palm Beach

Eitz Chaim: Shacharis 8:00 AM · Mincha 6:40 PM, followed by Maariv
Bais Avrohom Yitzchok: Shacharis 8:05 AM & 9:00 AM · Mincha 7:30 PM · Maariv at the zman

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