PALM VOICE

Issue 5 · November 6, 2026

פרשת חיי שרה · כ"ו חשון תשפ"ז



Daylight Saving Time Ends: What Floridians Need to Know

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. – Daylight saving time ended at 2 a.m. local time this past Motzei Shabbos, which means that Floridians, like residents of most other U.S. states, set their clocks back an hour before going to bed. Standard time will remain in effect until the second Sunday in March, when clocks will once again "spring forward" with the return of daylight saving time.

There's plenty of grumbling about the twice-a-year time change. An AP-NORC poll found that only 12% of American adults favor keeping the biannual switch, while the vast majority prefer a single, year-round time. Lawmakers in Washington took up the issue yet again over the summer.

People often find the spring transition harder because they lose an hour of sleep—an hour theoretically regained in the fall. However, many also mourn the end of daylight saving time in autumn, as shorter days mean less daylight after school or work for exercise and outdoor activities. The poll revealed that, if forced to choose, most Americans would prefer keeping that extra hour of daylight in the evening year-round.

Health organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, have long advocated for year-round standard time. Standard time aligns more closely with natural sunlight and human biology, specifically our circadian rhythms. Brighter mornings and earlier darkness at night help keep internal clocks on track, making it easier to wake up refreshed and maintain healthy sleep habits.

Most countries worldwide do not observe daylight saving time. Among those that do—primarily in North America and Europe—the dates for clock changes vary. Within the U.S., Hawaii and most of Arizona do not observe daylight saving time, remaining on standard time year-round.

ATTENTION COMMUTERS

List Your Winter Mincha Minyanim

With clocks turned back, Shkiah (sunset) in South Florida is now around 5:35 PM and will continue to get earlier over the coming weeks. For many working men, Mincha arrives before they can make it home. Numerous offices, business parks, and shuls throughout South Florida host afternoon Mincha minyanim, but commuters might not know they exist. If your workplace or local community hosts a minyan, please contact us to list it in *The Palm Voice*.

Please Include in Your Listing:

- **Location:** Building, office park, or address, along with the town/city.
- **Timing:** Start time for Mincha and whether it shifts with the *zman*.
- **Visitor Details:** Entrance/security instructions, parking details, and whether visitors are welcome.

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The Week

Parshas Chayei Sarah · 27 Cheshvan 5787 · November 7, 2026

Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh Kislev — Rosh Chodesh Tuesday and Wednesday

הדלקת הנרות

Aventura	5:17 PM	Okeechobee	5:18 PM
Boca Raton	5:16 PM	Orlando	5:18 PM
Hollywood	5:17 PM	Tampa	5:23 PM
Miami Beach	5:17 PM	West Palm Beach	5:16 PM

Zmanim

City	עלות	נץ החמה	קרי״ש	חצות	שקיעה	ר״ת	מוצש״ק
Aventura	5:21 AM	6:33 AM	9:18 AM	12:04 PM	5:34 PM	6:46 PM	6:24 PM
Boca Raton	5:21 AM	6:33 AM	9:18 AM	12:04 PM	5:34 PM	6:46 PM	6:24 PM
Hollywood	5:21 AM	6:33 AM	9:18 AM	12:04 PM	5:34 PM	6:46 PM	6:24 PM
Miami Beach	5:20 AM	6:32 AM	9:18 AM	12:04 PM	5:35 PM	6:47 PM	6:25 PM
Okeechobee	5:25 AM	6:37 AM	9:22 AM	12:06 PM	5:35 PM	6:47 PM	6:25 PM
Orlando	5:29 AM	6:41 AM	9:25 AM	12:09 PM	5:36 PM	6:48 PM	6:26 PM
Tampa	5:33 AM	6:45 AM	9:29 AM	12:13 PM	5:41 PM	6:53 PM	6:31 PM
West Palm Beach	5:21 AM	6:33 AM	9:18 AM	12:03 PM	5:33 PM	6:45 PM	6:23 PM

Weather

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
84°/ 76°	84°/ 75°	85°/ 75°	83°/ 75°



Florida Election Night Results: Jewish Communal Review

The November 3, 2026, midterm elections in Florida carried significant weight for the Jewish community. Amid redrawn congressional maps and shifting political dynamics, voters faced choices that directly impacted local communal safety and federal funding for religious security.

Florida Gubernatorial Election Outcome

In the race to succeed outgoing Governor Ron DeSantis, Republican Representative Byron Donalds secured victory over Democratic challenger David Jolly, winning 50.0% to 48.7%. Donalds becomes Florida's first Black Republican elected governor. From a communal perspective, Donalds has pledged to sustain state support for expanding school choice vouchers—a critical funding mechanism heavily utilized by Jewish day school families—and maintaining strict state-level grant programs for faith-based security infrastructure.

1. U.S. House District 25: Moskowitz vs. Singer

Florida's newly redrawn 25th Congressional District, containing a heavy Jewish electorate of approximately 25% along the South Florida coast, saw Democratic incumbent Jared Moskowitz defeat Republican challenger Scott Singer, the former mayor of Boca Raton. Moskowitz secured approximately 51.5% of the vote to Singer's 46.4%. This represents a critical Democratic hold in a district newly redrawn by Republicans.

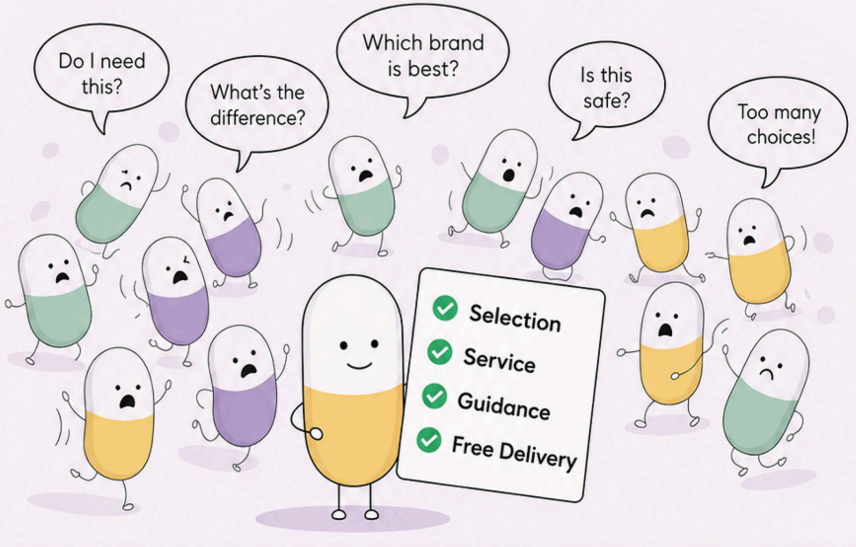
- **Shared Alignment:** Both candidates, who are Jewish, ran on platforms strongly supporting measures to codify the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism into federal law.
- **Campaign Debates:** Singer, backed by the Republican Jewish Coalition and Donald Trump, positioned himself as a bulwark against progressive forces. Moskowitz, the incumbent lawmaker, pledged to continue aggressively confronting antisemitism from both the far right and the far left.

2. U.S. Senate Special Election: Moody vs. Nixon

A high-stakes statewide special election was held for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Marco Rubio. Incumbent Republican Ashley Moody, who was appointed to the seat, faced a challenge from progressive Democratic State Representative Angie Nixon. The outcome saw Republican Senator Ashley Moody win the race, securing a strong mandate across the state, including notable support among right-leaning Jewish pockets in Miami-Dade.

- **Communal Friction:** Nixon joined the progressive network during the election cycle, using rhetoric regarding community matters that drew heavy condemnation from mainstream Jewish advocacy organizations.

Too Many Bottles.
Not Enough Answers.



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Classifieds & Announcements

Bais Avrohom Yitzchok — Century Village

2518 N. Haverhill Rd, West Palm Beach

Zmanim for Parshas Chayei Sarah

SHACHARIS

1st minyan: Brachos 7:00 · Hodu 7:10

2nd minyan: Brachos 8:00 · Hodu 8:15

3rd minyan: Brachos 9:15 · Hodu 9:25

4th minyan: Brachos 10:15 · Hodu 10:25

MINCHA

1st minyan: Korbanos 2:00 PM · Ashrei 2:05 PM

2nd minyan: Korbanos 6:15 PM · Ashrei 6:20 PM

Shiur Mishnayos: after Mincha

MAARIV

1st minyan: 6:50 PM

2nd minyan: 9:30 PM

Congregation Anshei Shalom

5348 Grove Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33417

Weekday zmanim for Parshas Chayei Sarah

SHACHARIS: 8:30 AM

DAF YOMI: 4:20 PM

MINCHA

1st minyan: 5:20 PM

2nd minyan: 6:10 PM

MAARIV: 6:37 PM

Congregation Aitz Chaim

2518 Haverhill Rd, West Palm Beach, FL 33417

SHABBOS

Shacharis: 9:00 AM

WEEKDAYS

Shacharis: 8:00 AM

Mincha: 5:15 PM, followed by Maariv

Kahal Chasidim of Surfside

Bais Medrash Kahal Chasidim, 9440 Abbott Ave., Surfside

SHABBOS KODESH, PARSHAS CHAYEI SARAH

Mincha & Kabbalas Shabbos: 5:32

Shacharis: 9:30

Mincha & Shalosh Seudos: 5:32

Bircas Hamazon & Maariv: 6:35

Havdalah (Rabbeinu Tam): 6:48

SHABBOS MEVORCHIM CHODESH KISLEV

Rosh Chodesh: Tuesday and Wednesday

Molad: Monday night, 10:27:03

WEEKDAYS, PARSHAS TOLDOS

Shacharis: Sunday 9:00 · Monday–Friday 8:00

Mincha (Ashrei): 5:30

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“Mi K’amcha Yisrael”: A Reminder of Our Shared Bond



West Palm Beach, FL — The relentless downpour this past Sunday, transformed the bustling streets of West Palm Beach into an unexpected, waist-deep river. A rare "conveyor belt" of thunderstorms pinned itself over the coast, dumping more than ten inches of rain in a matter of hours.

Over in Century Village, the situation quickly turned into an absolute mess. The main entrances and exits along Haverhill Road and Okeechobee Boulevard were rapidly submerged, trapping residents as vehicles stalled in the rising deluge. For the many older residents and *mispallelim* inside the gated neighborhood, the timing could not have been more challenging. It was time for *Mincha*, and the community’s shuls were impossible to reach.

At the famous Orthodox *Eitz Chaim Shul*, Rabbi Shay Richmond was still able to lead a *minyan* for *Mincha*, followed by a short *vort* (Torah thought) and then *Maariv*, allowing those *mispallelim* to make it back home just in time. However, it was a completely different story at the neighboring *chassidishe* Avrum Yitzchok Shul, where the davening was scheduled closer to *zman shkiah* of Rabbeinu Tam. Many of the usual *mispallelim* simply could not make it safely to the shul at all. Those who did manage to arrive, found themselves unable to return home. They were unfortunately stuck inside the shul for many hours, impatiently waiting out the storm until they were finally given the green light to re-enter the residential sections of the village.

Inside the shul, safe from the raging storm outside, the stranded *mispallelim* were served hot coffee and cookies while they anxiously waited for help. Despite the historic 1-in-1,000-year rainfall completely overwhelming the local drainage systems, the spirit of the community remained uplifted, bound together by mutual care and resilience.

Meanwhile, Ch. E., a dedicated resident of the Dover buildings, looked out his window with concern. From his vantage point, he could see several elderly neighbors stranded in their cars at the entrance to the gated community. The vehicles were already submerged knee-high in the rising waters, leaving the drivers stuck and completely unable to cross the gates into their own village. The dangerous, rushing currents made it impossible for them to walk.

With true *chesed* animating his heart, he immediately sprang into action. Venturing out into the storm, he began wading through the knee-deep water, and helped guide elderly residents out of trapped vehicles and walk them safely across the flooded parking lots so they could reach their homes securely. It was a beautiful reminder of the timeless pasuk, "*Mi K'amcha Yisroel*".

In Focus

No Need to Fall Back: A Wake-Up Call on Measles

The CDC is reporting a massive surge in measles cases across the United States, with this year's numbers already more than double all of last year. Nationwide, there are 4,588 confirmed cases as of October 22, compared to 2,289 in 2025. This *mamesh* historic outbreak spans 47 jurisdictions—including right down the road in New Jersey—with 96% of cases tied directly to active outbreaks.

The Current Status in Florida (2026)

- **Staggering Jump:** Florida has recorded approximately 155 cases this year, a frightening rise compared to just 6 cases in all of 2025.
- **National Ranking:** Florida now ranks among the top 3 to 5 states during the country's worst multi-state outbreak in 35 years.
- **Immunity Drop:** Kindergarten MMR vaccination rates have slipped to around 88.8%, falling below the 95% threshold required for true community herd immunity. Local areas like Broward are even lower at ~85%.
- **Local Hotspots:** Major clusters have flared up in Miami-Dade, Broward, Orange, Palm Beach, and Collier County (linked to an outbreak at Ave Maria University).

Health officials are strongly urging the *olam* (community) to ensure families are fully up to date on the MMR vaccine, especially before any international travel.

If anyone suspects an exposure, *chas veshalom*, please call your healthcare provider or local health department before visiting any medical facility so proper arrangements can be made to protect other patients and staff.

This is for informational purposes only. For medical advice or diagnosis, consult a professional.





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A Word of Wisdom

A Point to Ponder

The Midrash for this week, Parshas Chayei Sarah (*Bereishis Rabba* 58:3), writes that when Reb Akiva saw his *talmidim* starting to doze off, he startled them with a question; "Why did Esther Hamalka merit to rule over 127 provinces? Because her ancestor, Sarah Imeinu, lived 127 years."

The Chidushei HaRim *zt'l* explains that this jolted the *talmidim* awake because it reminded them of the unfathomable value of every single minute. Had Sarah wasted even one year, Esther would have merited one less province! He elaborates: "Every week of Sarah's life built a city; every hour granted her a new town worth thousands. When a person oversleeps, he isn't just dozing—he's throwing away thousands of rubles!" This *mashal* hit them like a lightning bolt. They realized the value and preciousness of time, that a yid can make great progress, attain spiritual wealth every second, and there is no greater *chisaron* (loss) than *bittul zman* (wasted time).

We see this same *bren* (fire) by Avraham Avinu. The Torah states, *"V'Avraham zakein ba b'yamim"*—he was old, and "came with his days" (24:1). He arrived at the end of his life with every single day intact, fully utilized for *avodas Hashem.*

The Yaaras Dvash (2:10) emphasizes this when he exhorts his talmidim: "No, my dear sons. It is not right to waste precious time on *narischkeiten* (foolishness). People stay up late at night, and when the sun rises, they roll over in bed and miss *zman tefillah*. One *aveirah* drags another one along." In another shmuess (1:4), he cries out: "Wake up from your sleep! Stop wasting time discussing politics, wars, or empty hobbies. Leave those for the *goyishe* princes. Why should a Jewish *neshamah* trade *Olam HaEmes* for absolute *sheker*?"

He leaves us with serious food for thought: If a person facing his final days were offered millions to die just one day earlier, he would refuse. No amount of money can buy a day of life! If a day is that precious, how can we throw it away on *batalah* (idleness)? Such a person is the ultimate *shoteh,* fool, described by *Chazal*—someone who destroys the very *matanah* he was gifted with.

Time is a gift from Hashem; with it, we can rise, attain great heights, perfect our deeds, and connect more closely to the *Ribono shel Olam*.

It's a point to ponder!

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Our Voice

The past few days of extreme flooding across Palm Beach County and West Palm Beach, have served as a stark, humbling reminder of human vulnerability. From the submerged streets of Delray Beach and Boca Raton to the overwhelmed canals of Wellington, the illusion of control vanished in a matter of hours. We went from the comfort of thinking we had everything handled—safeguarded by engineering and routine—to the raw, visceral reality of feeling scared and unsafe, in the blink of an eye. It's but a hairline difference from thinking 'This is an extreme tropical downpour; I got this, it will pass shortly,' to "Hashem, please help me survive this, I'm so afraid I won't!"

When the waters rise above our doorsteps and the infrastructure we rely on fails, we are quickly reminded of just how fragile our everyday certainty is. When we try making a U-turn in rushing waters, and our steering wheel no longer cooperates, the panic is real, and the security we have in our abilities to save ourselves evaporates in the heavy droplets of water pounding the windshield.

This collective trauma, even just living in proximity to it, begs our introspection, our focus on what its message is. It obviously serves as a powerful reminder that there is a Higher Power who runs this world, controlling every single moment and defining our precise place within it.

While we know this, and constantly live with the awareness, when this realization is so personal and literal, it evokes a profound sense of gratitude to the Ribono shel Olam. We're thankful for the what ifs and could haves from which we were baruch Hashem spared, and for carrying us through the storm. We're grateful for the kindness and thoughtfulness that inevitably springs forth from our brothers and sisters when the need arises.

In the aftermath, the media inevitably begins its cycle, sharing narratives about good Samaritans, and stories about "unsung heroes." But to us, children of Avraham Avinu, with chesed running in our bloodstreams, immediate focus on others, and jumping in to action, is our baseline instinct. Wading through rising waters, where there might be dangerous creatures lurking, running to check on neighbors who are frail or alone, we aren't looking for a song, a headline, or a medal. When crisis hits, we don't pause to calculate risk or wait for recognition; we move. It is our natural reaction—an instinct woven into the very fabric of who we are—to immediately look outward and ask how we can help others. In those terrifying moments we acted as an unhesitating lifeline for one another.

In a shul where men were stranded for hours, with the entrance to the community locked to cars, a tray of fresh kipelech materialized. Travelers who arrived unaware, were met with people assisting with their luggage and floating rental cars. An elderly couple, with water seeping in to their car up to seat level, was helped to open the doors and pulled out to knee-deep water swirling around them, and walked to safety. Water flowing in to walk-in apartments was stopped and cleaned up with the angels disappearing as quickly as they came. The incidents of compassion and sacrifice are many, but there's no expectation of recognition or credit because this is who we are.

Looking back, we could feel a sense of pride and achdus in our instinctive reaction. But as the floodwaters finally recede from our neighborhoods, we must also look forward. The ultimate test is how we translate this moment into the future.

Is there anything we can do to have a more organized, ready response? Perhaps earlier shared warnings, (the first warnings from the National Weather Center came in way too late for people to change their plans about being on the road or to head to safer ground) more streamlined communication between our communities regarding alerts or where to reach out for help, posting emergency numbers, etc. Is it our duty to reach out to our local public officials, to work with them and bring to their awareness the gaps, weaknesses, and failed responses we observed during crisis? Should we be offering our ideas, suggestions and input?

We must carry the achdus, learning experience and gratitude forward, ensuring that our response to the next crisis is rooted not in panic, but in the same quiet strength and unhesitating grace we just witnessed, and in the certainty and calm that we are always in His embrace, protected, and guided through every encounter life brings our way.

The History of Jewish Florida · Part IV

The Southern Barrier & Early Foundations

Last Week's Recap:

Last week, we traced the deep roots of the Sunshine State's yiddishe history, from the early days when Jewish Conversos had to dodge the Spanish Inquisition, to the 1700s when a few brave souls finally settled in northern Florida. We marveled at Moses Elias Levy's grand—but ultimately short-lived—dream of a Jewish farming colony in Micanopy, which ironically paved the way for the University of Florida to become a massive hub of Jewish life today. We also met his son, David Levy Yulee—the first Jewish U.S. Senator—who architected Florida's statehood and built its cross-state railroad, proving that even back then, a Yid appreciated a good direct route to beat the traffic.

The Southern Barrier: Confronting Hardships on the Path South

For many decades, the development of South Florida's Jewish community lagged far behind the established strongholds of Northern and Central Florida. If you wanted a reliable *minyan* or a decent piece of kosher meat back then, you didn't head south to look for palm trees—you stayed put up north! As late as 1928, roughly 40 percent of the state's total Jewish population of 10,000 made their homes in Jacksonville. The massive southward migration that would eventually build the bustling Torah communities of Miami, Miami Beach, Broward, and Palm Beach counties only took shape in the mid-to-late twentieth century.

The primary hurdle holding back Jewish growth in South Florida during those early years was a stark, highly visible climate of antisemitism. It was once heartbreakingly common to see prominent signs displayed outside establishments in Miami and Miami Beach reading "Gentiles Only" or—in a shocking display of bad taste—"No Jews or Dogs." (Which left many wondering who exactly was going to walk whom).

Powerful and wealthy developers of the era actively shut their doors to Jewish families. Carl G. Fisher, the prominent highway builder and entrepreneur, flatly refused to sell property or serve Jewish customers. Similarly, the famous oil and railroad mogul Henry Flagler strictly prohibited land sales and hotel lodgings to Jewish clients across his vast empire. By the 1930s, the bias became even more blatant, with advertisements for several luxury oceanfront hotels in Miami Beach callously boasting: *"Always a view, never a Jew."*

Read about the Miami's Jewish Foundation, in next week's issue of The Palm Voice.

News

Florida regional news briefing

Tragic Learjet Crash in Greenacres

A catastrophic aviation accident shocked Palm Beach County on Sunday afternoon when a private Learjet 60 nose-dived into a neighborhood in Greenacres, about 7 miles southwest of West Palm Beach. The Bahamas-bound aircraft, which departed from Austin, Texas, exploded on impact near a busy commercial strip on Military Trail. All nine people on board were killed, including a tech entrepreneur, his young family and the flight crew. Minutes before the plunge, the pilots had reported severe turbulence and ice accumulation to air traffic controllers. The NTSB and the FAA are investigating whether the aircraft broke apart before it hit the ground.

• • •

Terrorist Threat Foiled Against Lakefront Community

Law enforcement has intercepted a major threat against a fast-growing orthodox neighborhood near Lake Okeechobee. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), in a joint operation with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, arrested 31-year-old Jerry Ray Sneed of Orlando after an investigation into hostile social media activity. Officials said the suspect had published explicit threats of a mass shooting or terrorist attack against the Lakefront community, with exact locations and images of weapons. Sneed was taken into custody with a firearm matching the posts and faces felony charges for making written or electronic threats to kill or cause mass bodily harm.

• • •

Torrential Rains & Severe Floodings in Palm Beach

A relentless storm system pounded Palm Beach County at the start of this week, dumping 10 to 20 inches of rain in places. In West Palm Beach, flash flooding swamped roadways and stalled scores of vehicles along Haverhill Road. Century Village was among the hardest hit: Palm Beach County Fire Rescue sent high-water trucks to evacuate stranded senior residents and bring them safely home, as the water overflowed carports and seeped into homes. Local schools cancelled classes as a Flood Watch extended through Monday night.

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