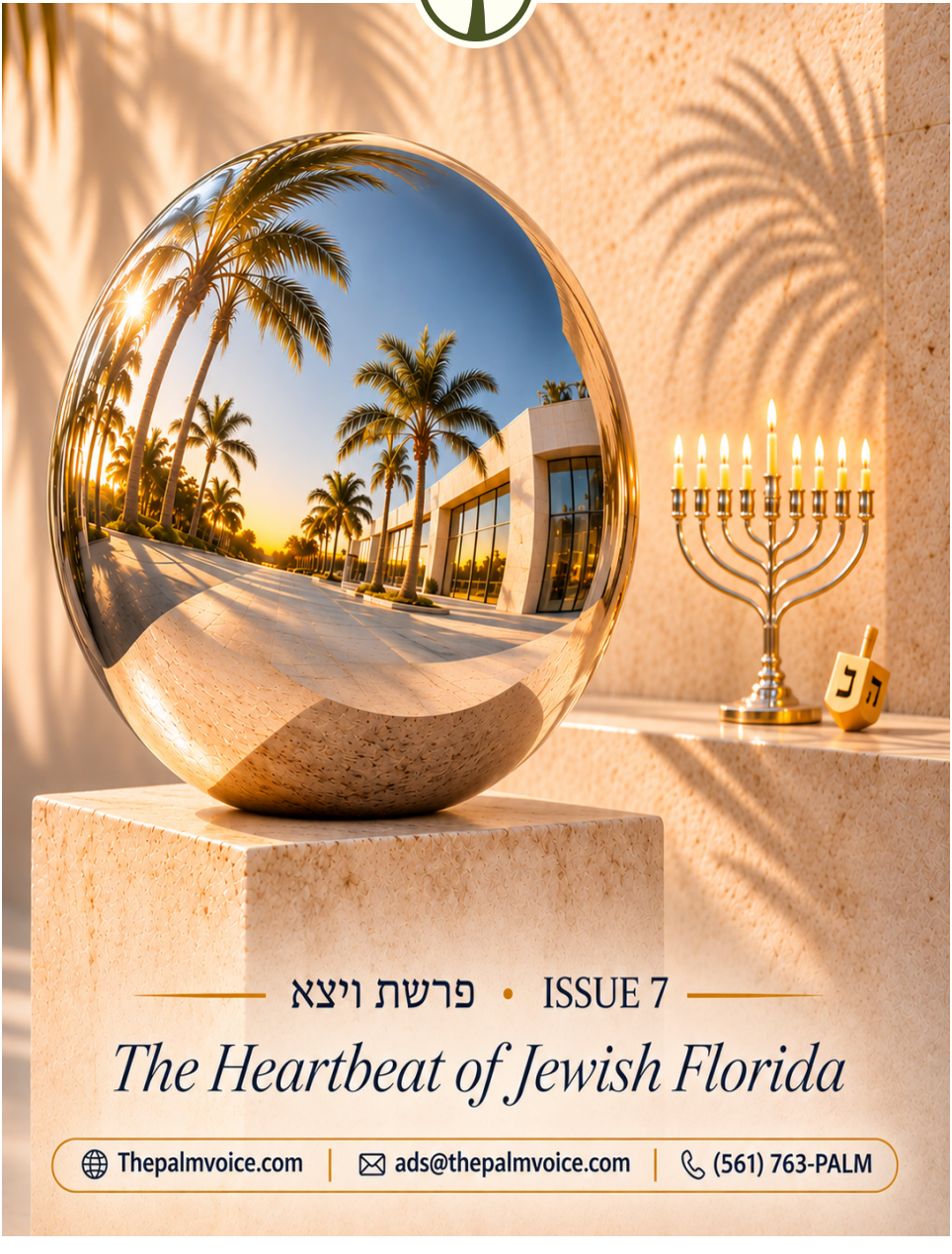
ב"ה

# PALM VOICE

Issue 7 · November 20, 2026

פרשת ויצא · ו׳ כסלו תשפ״ז



## פרשת ויצא • ISSUE 7

*The Heartbeat of Jewish Florida*

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# Innovation and Responsibility

**The events of this week have given us** pause for thought. The FAA's ground stop on over 3,000 flights, followed by United Airline's system outage, and Chase Bank's Zelle slowdown, have spurred conspiracy theories, and made us question and feel vulnerable about our reliance on technology. We stand on the edge of a technological frontier. Artificial intelligence drafts emails, diagnoses illnesses, and streamlines global finance. Florida, as one of 8 states to be part of a pilot program, has started testing eVTOLs, (electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft)—"flying cars"—the stuff of science fiction on its way to becoming a commercial reality, promising to turn gridlocked commutes into ten-minute hops. The promise of modern innovation is undeniable: unprecedented speed, efficiency, and freedom.

Yet, as we race toward the skies and automate our lives, we risk ignoring the fragile foundations holding everything up.

Consider the recent realities of our interconnected world. A single software glitch can freeze bank accounts, halting commerce for millions in seconds. A localized power failure or a sensor malfunction can lead to catastrophic freezer outages, spoiling life-saving vaccines or wiping out a grocery store's entire inventory. Even our most trusted institutions, like the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), face immense pressure to modernize aging systems before drones and flying taxis crowd the airspace. When our infrastructure relies entirely on complex, digital threads, a single snap can cause a massive unraveling.

That's enough to remind us every minute that we are in Hashem's hands, that while the progress has been dizzying and life-changing, we must always bear in mind that human wisdom, intelligence, creativity and accomplishments, are all in the hands of a Higher Power. No idea, invention, innovation or breakthrough is possible unless He wills it. We must find ways to be realistic about our reliance on technology and do our *hishtadlus* to have practical back-up plans wherever necessary.

The challenge of our era is not halting progress, nor is it blindly speeding into the unknown. It is finding the discipline to balance innovation with responsibility.

We should absolutely welcome the era of AI and flying cars. It is part of a Master Plan. However, as we reach for the clouds, we must ensure our feet—and our infrastructure—remain firmly planted on the ground. As we reach for the clouds we must ensure that our eyes and hearts remain focused heavenward, trusting only Hashem, utilizing technology in ways that enable us to serve Him better, and to find ways to teach our children how to navigate a world that seems to be controlled by the press of a button.

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# The Week

## Parshas Vayeitzei · 11 Kislev 5787 · November 21, 2026

### הדלקת הנרות

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aventura | 5:11 PM | Okeechobee | 5:12 PM |
| Boca Raton | 5:10 PM | Orlando | 5:12 PM |
| Hollywood | 5:11 PM | Tampa | 5:17 PM |
| Miami Beach | 5:12 PM | West Palm Beach | 5:10 PM |

### Zmanim

| City | עלות | נץ החמה | קרי״ש | חצות | שקיעה | ר״ת | מוצש״ק |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aventura | 5:31 AM | 6:43 AM | 9:24 AM | 12:06 PM | 5:29 PM | 6:41 PM | 6:19 PM |
| Boca Raton | 5:31 AM | 6:43 AM | 9:25 AM | 12:06 PM | 5:28 PM | 6:40 PM | 6:18 PM |
| Hollywood | 5:31 AM | 6:43 AM | 9:24 AM | 12:06 PM | 5:29 PM | 6:41 PM | 6:19 PM |
| Miami Beach | 5:30 AM | 6:42 AM | 9:24 AM | 12:06 PM | 5:29 PM | 6:41 PM | 6:19 PM |
| Okeechobee | 5:36 AM | 6:48 AM | 9:28 AM | 12:09 PM | 5:29 PM | 6:41 PM | 6:19 PM |
| Orlando | 5:40 AM | 6:52 AM | 9:32 AM | 12:11 PM | 5:29 PM | 6:41 PM | 6:19 PM |
| Tampa | 5:44 AM | 6:56 AM | 9:35 AM | 12:15 PM | 5:35 PM | 6:47 PM | 6:25 PM |
| West Palm Beach | 5:32 AM | 6:44 AM | 9:25 AM | 12:05 PM | 5:27 PM | 6:39 PM | 6:17 PM |

### Weather

| Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|---|---|---|
| 81°/ 74° | 83°/ 72° | 83°/ 72° | 83°/ 71° |

Miami Beach — Showers And Thunderstorms Likely






HaGaon Reb Chaim Kanievsky, ZT"L

# A Word of Wisdom

## Roots Forged in Hardship

— Adapted from the teachings of HaGaon Reb Chaim Kanievsky, ZT"L

**Yosef Hashem li ben acher — "May Hashem** add to me another son." (*Bereishis* 30:24)

In *Parshas Vayetzei*, after many years of heartfelt prayer and waiting, Rochel Imeinu finally gives birth to her firstborn son. Filled with gratitude and hope for the future, she names him Yosef, declaring: *"Yosef Hashem li ben acher"* – "May Hashem add to me another son." At first glance, this name reflects a mother's simple wish to be blessed with another child. Yet Rav Chaim Kanievsky *zt"l* reveals a far deeper spiritual thread running from this moment all the way to the palaces of *Mitzrayim*.

### A Mashal to Ponder

A royal gardener once wanted to plant a delicate fruit tree in a dry, empty desert where nothing had ever grown. Instead of carrying a young, fragile tree straight into the harsh soil, he first planted the seed in a rocky, windy valley near his own home. Day after day, the small sprout faced cold weather and strong winds until its roots grew deep enough to reach water beneath solid rock. When the gardener finally moved that tree into the desert, the scorching heat could not dry it out – because its roots had already learned how to grow strong in tough conditions.

### The Hidden Link Between Vayetzei and Mikeitz

Years later, in *Parshas Mikeitz*, Yosef HaTzaddik finds himself alone in Egypt – a land steeped in immorality and spiritual darkness, completely cut off from his father's home. When Hashem blesses Yosef with two sons in exile, he names his second child Efrayim, explaining: *"Ki hifrani Elokim b'eretz onyi"* – "For Hashem has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction" (*Bereishis* 41:52).

Rav Chaim Kanievsky points out a remarkable connection between Rochel's prayer in *Vayetzei* and Yosef's declaration in *Mikeitz*. How was Yosef able to stand firm in his faith, remain loyal to everything he was taught, and grow spiritually in a place as challenging as *Mitzrayim*? Rav Chaim explains that Yosef's spiritual resilience did not begin in Egypt – it was forged twenty years earlier during Yaakov Avinu's stay in the house of Lavan.

### Spiritual DNA Passed Down in Exile

At the conclusion of *Parshas Vayetzei*, Yaakov sends a message to Eisav summarizing his two decades away from home: *"Im Lavan garti"* – "I lived with Lavan." As Rashi famously notes, the Hebrew word *garti* shares the numerical value of 613, teaching us that despite living under the roof of a deceitful swindler, Yaakov kept all 613 *mitzvos* without compromising his values.

Because Yaakov refused to let his surroundings weaken his connection to Hashem – and instead remained fruitful in *Torah* and *mitzvos* in a place of spiritual darkness – he implanted that exact spiritual DNA into his son Yosef. That inherited strength is what enabled Yosef to thrive in Egypt and proudly name his son Efrayim, celebrating the power to grow specifically *b'eretz onyi*, in the land of affliction.

### Thought for the Week

When we stay committed to *Torah*, *mitzvos*, and *Yiddishkeit* even when life feels busy or difficult, we aren't just building our own strength – we are planting deep roots that will, *iy"H*, give our children and future generations the *koach* to flourish wherever Hashem places them.

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# Heavy Rain, Flooding Returning to Florida



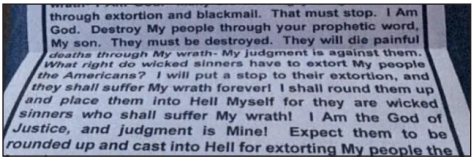
Flooding in Miami.

**West Palm Beach, Fl.** – Heavy rain and possible flooding are returning to South Florida, with the worst expected on Wednesday, when rain chances are 80% or higher, WPBF 25 reports. "Flooding is certainly possible," said WPBF meteorologist Glenn Glazer. Rain chances stay at 50% or more on Thursday, fall to 40% on Friday and drop to 10–20% over the weekend.

A flood watch is in effect for Palm Beach County through Thursday at 7 p.m., and for Okeechobee, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties through Friday at 7 p.m.

*Source: WPBF 25*

# N.C. Man Indicted for Threats




One of the threatening letters.
Image: Jewish Florida News

**Miami, Fl.** – A 58-year-old North Carolina man has been indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly mailing antisemitic letters containing threats of violence to Jewish organizations and individuals in South Florida.

The U.S. Department of Justice announced on November 9, 2026, that Brian Charles faces a federal charge of mailing threatening communications following an investigation into letters sent in July to several recipients in the region.

# Ground Stop Strands Travelers




Miami International Airport.
Photo: Pressfoto | Dreamstime.com

**Miami, Fl.** – Travelers at South Florida airports are still scrambling to figure out how they're getting home or moving on to their next destination days after a rare nationwide ground stop forced the cancellation or delay of tens of thousands of flights across the U.S.

Since Friday, more than 45,000 flights have been delayed or canceled across the U.S., according to FlightAware, including flights to and from Miami International Airport and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

*Source: CBS Miami*

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# Community News

## Controversial Influencer's Hit Piece Backfires on Him



At Lakefront in Okeechobee.

**Okeechobee, Fl.** – Controversial influencer Tyler Oliveira's latest attempt to produce a viral exposé on the new Lakefront community backfired badly during a visit to the development in Okeechobee, Florida. Arriving with cameras to investigate claims that non-Jews were barred from buying homes or receiving state-funded school vouchers, Oliveira walked the neighborhood asking residents whether a "*goy*" would be permitted to live there. Instead of capturing religious exclusion, he was met by the development's CEO, longtime Brooklyn community leader Yidel Perlstein, who dismantled his talking points on camera with calm humor. Perlstein even jokingly invited him to move in to help out his neighbors as a "*Shabbos goy*."

## Gearing Up for Your Chanukah Gifts




A Chanukah gift box.

**Miami, Fl.** – With the calendar now turned to *Kislev*, it's time to focus on *Chanukah*—which means keeping your little kids, nieces, and nephews in mind for gifts, and locking down your plan for shipping out packages this season. Last year, roughly 2.3 billion packages were sent during the gifting season. The National Retail Federation says it expects overall holiday retail sales to grow 4.2%, reaching $1.013 trillion. UPS and FedEx are preparing for another high-volume season with additional staffing and peak-season charges.

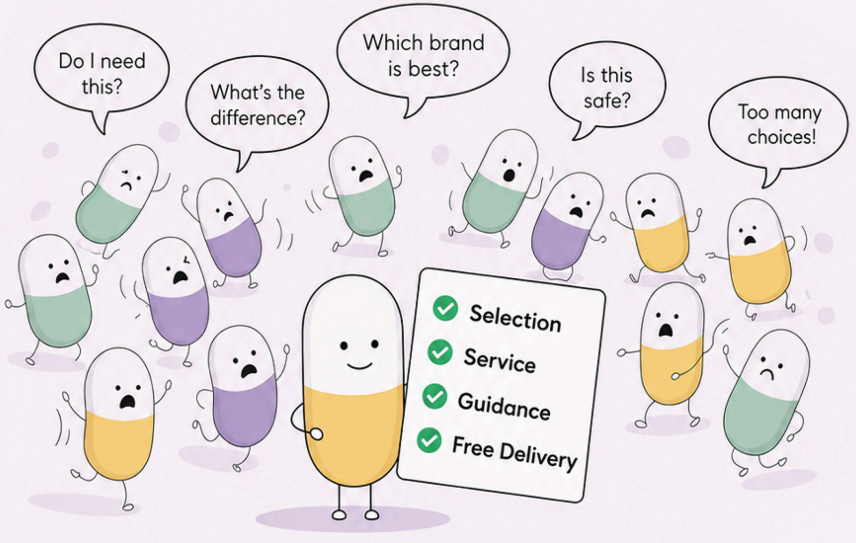
## Small Plane Makes Emergency Landing in Traffic



The Cessna after its emergency landing on Bayshore Road.

**Fort Myers, Fl.** – Drivers on Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers, Florida, got the shock of a lifetime around noon on Saturday, November 7, when a small plane suddenly descended into the middle of traffic. Two pilots were aboard the 1963 Cessna 172D Skyhawk when they encountered sudden engine trouble near Interstate 75. Miraculously, neither the two pilots nor anyone on the ground was injured, though the incident caused significant traffic delays while crews cleared the roadway.

# Too Many Bottles.
# Not Enough Answers.

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בהשגחת
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# How To Make Chanukah Jelly Donuts



Fresh, warm jelly donuts for Chanukah

**These take a little time, but there** is nothing better than eating a fresh, warm, jelly donut! Here is how you make them (and don't forget to get the full recipe with measurements, at biggerbolderbaking.com):

**1.** Combine the water, yeast, sugar, flour, vegetable oil, eggs, vanilla extract, and salt in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a dough hook (or in a large mixing bowl) and mix on low for 15 minutes. You can also knead by hand, but the dough will be very sticky.

**2.** Once the dough is kneaded, place it in a large, oiled bowl. Cover it with plastic wrap and a tea towel and leave in a warm place to rise. You want it to double in size, which should take around 2 hours.

**3.** When the dough has doubled in size, line a baking sheet with parchment paper and dust the parchment, and your work surface, with flour.

**4.** Turn the dough onto the floured surface. Gently pat the dough to a 1/2 (13mm) thickness. Dip a 2 1/2 inch (6cm) round cookie cutter in flour and cut as many circles as you can from the dough, placing them on the prepared baking sheet. Re-roll and cut any scraps.

**5.** Dust the circles of dough with a bit more flour and cover with a dry tea towel (or plastic wrap), and let it rise again for about an hour.

**6.** Once the donuts have risen, heat 2-3 inches (5-8cm) of oil in a sturdy pot. Fit the pot with a candy thermometer if you have one.

**7.** Line a baking sheet with paper towels and set a wire rack on top. Place this near the stove. This is where you will drain and rest your fried donuts.

**8.** Heat the oil over medium heat. If you have a thermometer, you want it to reach 325°F/165°C. Fry 3-4 donuts at a time for about 2-3 minutes, or until they are golden in color. Flip the donuts carefully and fry the other side for a minute or two, until golden.

**9.** Lift the donuts out of the oil and place them on your wire rack to drain. Repeat with remaining donuts.

**10.** Once the donuts have cooled, use a straw or skewer to poke a hole in the donut's side or top.

**11.** Place the strained jam (or filling of choice) in a piping bag fitted with a small plain tip. If you don't have a piping bag, fill a Ziploc bag, and snip one corner off. Squeeze a small amount of filling into each donut, then dust with powdered sugar.

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# Yahrtzeits of Tzadikim

## Friday, November 20 · י׳ כסלו

Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Epstein (1933)

רבי משה מרדכי בן רבי צבי חיים עפשטיין זצ״ל · תרצ״ד

Rabbi Pinchas Menachem Elazar Justman (1920)

רבי פנחס מנחם אלעזר בן רבי בנימין אליעזר יוסטמאן זצ״ל · תרפ״א

Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Margulios (1616)

רבי משה מרדכי בן רבי שמואל מרגליות זצ״ל · שע״ז

## Shabbos, November 21 · י״א כסלו

Parshas Vayeitzei

Rabbi Yaakov Yitzchak Halevi of Pressburg – Rav Yitzchak Dukla (1762)

רבי יעקב יצחק הלוי בן רבי יקותיאל זלמן זצ״ל (ר׳ איציק דוקלער) · תקכ״ג

Rabbi Yechiel Heller (1863)

רבי יחיאל בן רבי אהרן העלער זצ״ל · תרכ״ד

## Sunday, November 22 · י״ב כסלו

Rabbi Shlomo Luria – The Maharshal (1573)

רבי שלמה בן רבי יחיאל לוריא זצ״ל (מהרש״ל) · של״ד

Rabbi Avraham Dov of Ovruch (1840)

רבי אברהם דוב בן רבי דוד מאווריטש זצ״ל (בת עין) · תר״א

Rabbi Isaac Lampronti (1756)

רבי יצחק חזקיה בן רבי שמואל למפרונטי זצ״ל · תקי״ז

## Monday, November 23 · י״ג כסלו

Ravina (499 CE)

רבינא · ד׳ר״ס

Rava bar Rav Huna (322 CE)

רבא בר רב הונא · ד׳פ״ג

Rabbi Yisrael Friedman of Chortkov (1933)

רבי ישראל בן רבי דוד משה פרידמאן מטשארטקוב זצ״ל · תרצ״ד

Rabbi Yisrael Taub of Modzitz (1920)

רבי ישראל בן רבי שמואל אליהו טאוב ממאדזשיץ זצ״ל · תרפ״א

## Tuesday, November 24 · י״ד כסלו

Reuven ben Yaakov

ראובן בן יעקב אבינו

Rabbi Menashe ben Yisrael (1657)

רבי מנשה בן רבי יוסף בן ישראל זצ״ל · תי״ח

Rabbi Menachem Nachum of Stefanesti (1868)

רבי מנחם נחום בן רבי ישראל פרידמאן משטעפענעשט זצ״ל · תרכ״ט

Rabbi David Abuchatzira (1919)

רבי דוד בן רבי מסעוד אבוחצירא זצ״ל · תר״פ

## Wednesday, November 25 · ט״ו כסלו

Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi (c. 217 CE)

רבי יהודה הנשיא (רבינו הקדוש) · בערך ג׳תתקע״ח

Rabbi Simcha Bunim Sofer (1906)

רבי שמחה בונם בן רבי אברהם שמואל בנימין סופר זצ״ל (שבט סופר) · תרס״ז

Rabbi Dovid Twersky of Skver (1919)

רבי דוד ב״ר יצחק מסקווירא זצ״ל · תר״פ

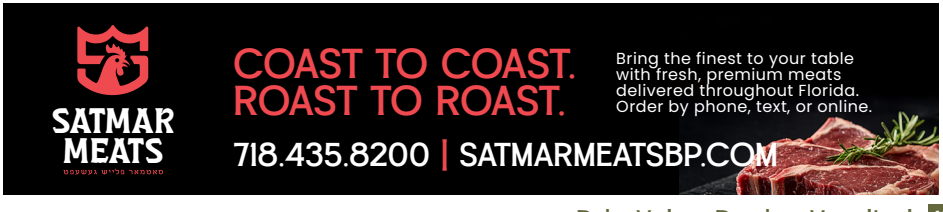
## Thursday, November 26 · ט״ז כסלו

Rabbi Menachem Kalish of Amshinov (1917)

רבי מנחם ב״ר יעקב דוד קאליש מאמשינוב זצ״ל · תרע״ח

Rabbi Shaul Yedidya Elazar Taub of Modzitz (1947)

רבי שאול ידידיה אלעזר ב״ר ישראל טויב ממודזיץ זצ״ל (אמרי שאול) · תש״ח



# The 'Sifsei Tzaddik': Rabbi Pinchas Menachem (Elazar) Justman, zt"l

**1848–1920 · Yahrtzeit 10 Kislev**



Rabbi Pinchas Menachem Justman, the Sifsei Tzaddik

**Rabbi Pinchas Menachem Justman Zt"l, was born** in Warsaw, Poland, in 1848 to his father, Rabbi Binyamin Eliezer Justman, and mother, Tzina Pessel Justman (née Alter) – daughter of the *Chiddushei Harim*, the first Gerrer *Rebbe*.

His mother died when Pinchas Menachem was very young.

Orphaned of his mother, he grew up in the home of his grandfather, Rabbi Yitzchak Meir Alter *Zt"l*, (known as the *Chiddushei Harim*) and his wife, together with his cousin, also an orphan – and later, his brother-in-law – Rabbi Yehudah Aryeh Leib Alter *Zt"l*, the *Sfas Emes*.

Already at the age of seven, young Pinchas Menachem was outstanding in his learning.

When he was about nine years old, his grandfather took him to visit the Kotzker *Rebbe*; an event which left a lifelong impression on him.

In 1864, Rabbi Pinchas Menachem married his first cousin, Hendel Leah, who was the daughter of his uncle, Rabbi Avraham Mordechai Alter – the son of the *Chiddushei Harim* – becoming the brother-in-law of the *Sfas Emes*.

In 1905, he moved out of Gora Kalwaria to the city of Pilica (Piltz). That didn't stop Gerrer *chassidim* from following him there, too.

One day, a *talmid chacham* came and told him that he should let others bask in the light of his *Torah* and *yiras shamayim*. He then agreed and became their *rebbe*. Some say that this was *Eliyahu Hanavi*.

He became the first Piltzer *Rebbe* and began to be known by the title of his main work, the "*Sifsei Tzadik*," which was a commentary on *Torah*.

On 23 *Tammuz*, 5672 (8 July, 1912) he added the name "Elazar" to his name "Pinchas Menachem," when he was very ill. Eventually he recovered from his illness.

In 1915, he moved from Pilica to Wieruszów and four years later – in spring of 1919 – he moved his *chassidic* court to Częstochowa (Chenstochov), where he lived for almost two years – until his passing in November, 1920.

The *Sifsei Tzaddik* passed away on *Shabbos, parshas Vayishlach*, on the 10th of *Kislev* 5681, (November 21, 1920) in Czestochowa, Poland. His *levaya* was held on Monday, because of a disagreement between the community of Pilz and the community of Częstochowa regarding the burial place.

Eventually, he was buried in the Jewish cemetery of Częstochowa, next to his son, Yitzchak Meir, who died a year earlier. Tens of thousands of people attended the *levaya*.

The *sefer Sifsei Tzaddik* was published only after his death by his son, Rabbi Chanoch Gad Justman and Rabbi Menachem Mendel Alter of Pabianice, the son of the *Sfas Emes*.

Aside from the *Sifsei Tzaddik* on the *Torah*, he also wrote a large work on *Shas* and a commentary on *Tehillim* which were not published before the Holocaust, and were lost during the war.

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# Classifieds & Announcements

**ALTAIR HOTEL SHUL – THE BAY HARBOR ISLANDS MINYAN (SEFARD)**
9540 West Bay Harbor Drive, Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33154 · Open 24 hours
Weekdays:
· Shachris, 1st minyan: 8:00 am
· Shachris, 2nd minyan: Brachos 9:00 · Hoidu 9:10 · Borchu 9:20
· Mincha: 10 minutes before shkia, followed by Maariv
Shabbos:
· Friday night Mincha: 5 minutes after candle lighting, followed by Kabbalas Shabbos
· Shachris: Brachos 9:00 · Hoidu 9:10, Kiddush after Mussaf
· Mincha: 30 minutes before Erev Shabbos candle lighting, followed by Seudas Shlishis and Maariv

**HARBORSIDE KOLLEL**
1108 Kane Concourse, 3rd floor, Suite 308-B, Bay Harbor Islands (above Bank of America)
· Late Maariv: 9:50 pm

**THE SHUL OF BAL HARBOUR – CHABAD**
9540 Collins Avenue, Surfside, FL 33154
· Early Mincha: 2:00 pm
· Late Maariv: 10:00 pm
· Facility closes: 10:30 pm
the.shul.org · 305-868-1411

**YOUNG ISRAEL OF BAL HARBOUR – ASHKENAZ**
9580 Abbott Avenue, Surfside, FL 33154
YICBH.org · 305-866-0203

**KHAL CHASIDIM SURFSIDE, THE "CHASIDISHE SHTIBEL" – SEFARD**
9440 Abbott Avenue, Surfside, FL 33154 (in a private house)
This week's times are in the box below
Complimentary Shabbos morning meals after Kiddush (Mr. Moshe Shmiel Rotenstein)

**THE SEPHARDIC CENTER – SEPHARDI**
9457 Abbott Avenue, Surfside, FL 33154 (in a multi-family house)
Sephardic-center.org · 305-204-9333

**HECHAL SHALOM CONGREGATION – SEPHARDI**
310 95th Street, Surfside, FL 33154 (above Big Daddy's)
hechalshalom.org · 305-867-6024

**MAGEN DAVID CONGREGATION – SEPHARDI**
9348 Harding Avenue, Surfside, FL 33154
magendavidcongregation.com

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# זמני תפילה

**בית המדרש קהל חסידים ד'סורפסייד**
9440 Abbott Ave, Surfside, FL
סדר הזמנים לשבת קודש פרשת ויצא תשפ"ז
• זמן הדלקת נרות: 5:11
• מנחה וקבלת שבת: 5:25
• סוף זמן קריאת שמע: מ"א 8:48 · גר"א 9:24
• שחרית: 9:30
• מנחה ושל"ס: 5:25
• ברכת המזון ומעריב: 6:29
• הבדלה בזמן ר"ת: 6:42

**זמנים לחול פרשת וישלח**
• שחרית: יום א' 9:00 · יום ב'–ו' 8:00
• מנחה: 5:25 (אשרי)
• שיעור חק לישראל בכל ערב תיכף אחר מעריב

**שחרית**
• מנין ותיקין: ברכות 6:15 · נץ החמה 6:45
• מנין א': ברכות 7:00 · הודו 7:10
• מנין ב': ברכות 8:00 · הודו 8:15
• מנין ג': ברכות 9:15 · הודו 9:25
• מנין ד': ברכות 10:15 · הודו 10:20

**מנחה**
• מנין א': קרבנות 2:00 · אשרי 2:05
• מנין ב': קרבנות 6:10 · אשרי 6:15
• שיעור משניות: 6:25

**מעריב**
• מנין א': 6:45
• מנין ב': 9:30

**קהל אנשי שלום – וועסט פאלם ביטש**
5348 Grove Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33417
זמנים לימי החול פרשת ויצא
• שחרית: 8:30
• דף היומי: 4:15
• מנחה מנין א': 5:13, ואח"כ מעריב
• מנחה מנין ב': 6:00
• מעריב: 6:30

**בית אברהם יצחק – סענטשורי ווילעדזש**
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The History of Jewish Florida · Part VI

**In our previous chapter, we traced the early** years of Miami's *kehillah*—from its humble beginnings with a single permanent Jewish resident, Isidor Cohen, to a bustling community of 3,500 souls during the Roaring Twenties. Even while facing harsh discriminatory covenants and the infamous restrictions keeping *Yidden* south of Fifth Street in Miami Beach, our brothers and sisters persevered. Soon thereafter, the wheel of fortune turned, and the community was tested again. The catastrophic Great Miami Hurricane of 1926 roared through the coast, followed by the national stock market crash of 1929, and the devastating failure of five local banks. Just like that, the city's population decreased sharply once more, leaving the remaining determined families to hold fast to their faith and their dreams, and to prepare for the post-war era of rebuilding and growth.

When World War II arrived, the entire landscape of South Florida changed *min hakatzeh el hakatzeh* (from one end to the other). The U.S. military transformed Miami Beach's grand hotels into training barracks, welcoming hundreds of thousands of servicemen—among them tens of thousands of Jewish soldiers. Having experienced the warm sunshine and ocean breeze firsthand, countless veterans returned with their families once the war ended, eager to build a new life.

Combined with the widespread arrival of air conditioning, commercial aviation, and the official end of discriminatory housing laws in 1949, the floodgates opened.

- **Explosive Growth:** Between 1945 and 1950 alone, South Florida's Jewish population surged from roughly 9,000 to over 52,000, climbing to 134,000 by 1960.
- **Building a Shtetl by the Sea:** Jewish builders, architects, and entrepreneurs led the construction boom, shaping Miami Beach's iconic skyline and establishing thriving businesses, *shuls*, and community institutions. By the 1970s, roughly 80 percent of Miami Beach's population was Jewish, turning the island into a vibrant, *heimish* haven filled with kosher bakeries and bustling *minyanim*.

Follow in next week's issue how new waves of Jewish immigration and northward expansion into Broward and Palm Beach transformed South Florida into the thriving Jewish Center we know today!

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