

## Jewish gay and lesbian post-Chanukah party planned

Mindy Solomon will host a mixer to bring together Jewish LGBT (Lesbian Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender) people for a post Chanukah mixer on Dec. 16 from 6-8 p.m. at the Mindy Solomon Gallery in downtown St. Petersburg.

"I wanted to offer the gallery as a venue to facilitate cultural momentum and let people know about the resources available and encourage them to get involved" said Solomon.

"A lot of Jewish gays and lesbians don't know that they are welcome in a number of local synagogues, so they don't attend services," said Solomon. "It is like attending a party you heard about, but didn't get an invitation to—you just don't go. We want to extend the invitation

and let people know they have a lot of resources."

Along with the gallery, co-sponsors of the event are the JCC Suncoast, myQmunity.com, PRP Wines and Blue Heron Café.

Mariruth Kennedy, managing director of In the Q, LLC which owns the myQmunity.com LGBT events website in Tampa Bay, said she appreciated Solomon's support for the LGBT community.

"We thought this was a great way to support her effort to reach out to a segment of our audience which appears to be underserved in Tampa Bay."

The Mindy Solomon Gallery is located at 124 2nd Ave NE, St. Petersburg. For more information, call (727) 502-0852.

## 'Dr. Laz' to be featured at Shabbaton

David Lazerson, PhD, aka "Dr. Laz" — the original Rockin' Reggae Rabbi who played drums for the Grateful Dead — will be here next month for a Shabbaton weekend sponsored by Young Israel/Chabad of Pinellas County.

The Shabbaton will get under way Friday night, Dec. 17 when Dr. Laz will have an "Exclusive Teen Shabbat Dinner." He will discuss "Skullcaps & Switchblades", his experience teaching at inner city schools.



David Lazerson, PhD

On Shabbat morning there will be a gala kiddush during which Dr. Laz will talk about "Being Jewish in a Non-Jewish World."

The weekend will culminate with a "kumzitz" on Saturday night, Dec. 18 with Dr. Lazerson.

A 2008 Inductee into the National Teachers Hall of Fame, Lazerom has been educating, inspiring and changing people's lives for over 30 years as an author, musician, teacher, and a specialist in conflict resolution and race relations.

His latest book, *Sharing Turf*, was recently turned into the Showtime movie, *Crown Heights*, which starred Howie Mandel as Dr. Laz and chronicled his efforts to improve race relations during the Crown Heights race riots in 1991.

His music is described as upbeat, filled with spontaneity and audience participation. His music features an eclectic blend of rap, rock, Hassidic, blues, reggae, jazz.

He has directed his own alternative high school program and currently teaches graduate level courses in research. His current work utilizes expressive arts and assistive technology for students with profound special needs such as autism, Down's Syndrome, cerebral palsy. Most recently, he is conducting a research study that focuses on the use of humor and hands-on music for these challenged students.

For more information or to RSVP log on to [www.yichabad.com](http://www.yichabad.com) or call (727) 789-0408.

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## FILM

• CONTINUED from FRONT PAGE

While most of the films have been chosen, last minute tweaks to the schedule are ongoing.

The final lineup of movies, to date, is about 12 Rudd said. More may be included.

The films come from Israel, Argentina, Mexico, the Czech Republic, France, Germany and the United States. Some of the titles include *La Rafle* (French), *Oy Vey, My Son is Gay* (U.S.) and *Protektor* (Czech Republic).

"We're in more venues this year than we have been in the past," Rudd said. Besides Tampa Theatre and USF-Tampa, the venues will be in Channelside, Tampa; Congregation Beth Israel in Sun City Center, BayWalk Muvico Theater and Eckerd College.

Admission is \$6 for those getting advanced tickets, before Feb. 9, and \$8 at the door. Seniors and students will be admitted for \$7. Admission for the entire package of films is available for \$60.

For information on sponsorship opportunities, see Pages 14 and 15. To learn more about the Film Festival, go online to [www.tbjff.org](http://www.tbjff.org), or call Tampa JCC program coordinator, Brandy Gold at (813) 769-4725.

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entry categories	1st place
Middle school students – grades 6-8*	\$100
High school students - grades 9-12*	\$100
Ages 18 and older	\$100

To register or for more info please visit [tbjff.org](http://tbjff.org) or contact Lisa Robbins at 813.769.4723 or [lisa.robbs@jewishtampa.com](mailto:lisa.robbs@jewishtampa.com)

\*The middle school & high school attended by the student winners will each receive \$100.

All applications and short films must be received by **Friday December 31, 2010.**

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival presenting sponsor  
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The Tampa Bay Jewish Film Festival is produced by  
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