

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the synagogue is the building where a Jewish assembly or congregation meets for religious worship and instruction, traditionally is known as *beit t'fillah* (a house of worship), *beit midrash* (a house of study), and *beit k'nesset* (a house of gathering); and

WHEREAS, established as the first synagogue in Tampa, Florida on October 14, 1894, **Congregation Schaarai Zedek (CSZ)** was founded in the home of M. Henry Cohen, with Rabbi D. Jacobson serving as its first Rabbi, and the name Schaarai Zedek means Gates of Righteousness; and

WHEREAS, in 1903, Congregation Schaarai Zedek became affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and over the years, it has grown from 31 founders to nearly 4,000 men, women and children, many great contributors and leaders in our community through volunteerism and philanthropically, and in the fields of medicine, academics, law, and public service including two City of Tampa Mayors, the late Mayor Herman Glogowski who served during 1886-1891, and Mayor Sandra Freedman who was the first woman to serve from 1986-1995; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Congregation Schaarai Zedek has had outstanding leadership dedicated to the synagogue and its members, and in advocating for social justice and bringing congregations of different faiths together for the greater good of the community, including Rabbis D. Jacobson, H.S. Stollnitz, L. Elliot Grafman, David L. Zielonka, Frank N. Sundheim, Richard J. Birnholz, and since 2018, Rabbi Joel Simon; and

WHEREAS, Congregation Schaarai Zedek is considered a home where the members come together in love to pray, learn, and gather, and it is a welcoming, inclusive synagogue that has had an impact in the Tampa Bay community for 125 years, contributing to our city's history, development, and success; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of its **125th Anniversary**, Rabbi Joel Simon and the members of Congregation Schaarai Zedek are hosting a weekend of festivities October 25-26, 2019, including a special evening Shabbat service, a Dinner Gala featuring Master of Ceremonies David Glickman, Comedian and Singer, and a documentary about CSZ that will provide the opportunity to reflect on all that has been accomplished for well over a century.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, October 25, 2019 as

“CONGREGATION SCHAARAI ZEDEK DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating Congregation Schaarai Zedek on their 125th Anniversary, thanking the members for all they have contributed to our community, and in wishing them continued success in the future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 25th day of October, 2019.



Jane Castor
Mayor