

Symposium hoping to become tradition

By Sean Shapiro
Special to the TJP

For an annual event, the second year is often the most difficult for organizers.

That's the year the event solidifies itself as a staple within the community. It gains momentum and turns from a one-off — even if successful — to a yearly item on the calendar that the community can count on.

And that's one of the reasons Ken



Glaser

Glaser is up late each night. Sure, Glaser is already a bit of a night owl, but he's been putting in extra work making calls, sending emails, and reaching out to community members in general for the past year to make sure the second annual Israel Today Community Symposium is a success.

"We are very excited about this,"



Coleman



Golany

Aug. 6 at Temple Shalom. The event costs \$18, which includes lunch. Area synagogues Anshai Torah, Congregation Beth Torah, Congregation Shearith Israel, and Temple Emanu-El have partnered with Temple Shalom on the event.

Participants will be able to attend panels and breakout lectures on more than 30 different topics

Glaser said in a wide-spanning interview last week with the TJP. "This is something that we are hoping people start to circle on their calendars and it can continue to bring the community together."

The symposium will be held 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sunday,



Paley



Pulman

supporter of Jewish-American relations — and Charles Pulman, a pro-Israel activist and founder of the nonprofit Why Israel Matters.

"Israel is important and we have an opportunity to discuss that on many levels, and at the same time it's a chance for everyone to learn more," Pulman said in a phone

throughout the day. The four keynote speakers include Rabbi Andrew Paley from Temple Shalom, Technion Vice President Boaz Golany, Reverend Dr. Deedee M. Coleman from the Russell St. Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit — a staunch

supporter of Jewish-American relations — and Charles Pulman, a pro-Israel activist and founder of the nonprofit Why Israel Matters.

Speakers

Rabbi Ariel Boxman	Dr. Shira Lander
Dr. Itzhak Brook	Neil Lazarus
Max Chamovitz	Jacob Millner
Reverend Dr. Deedee M. Coleman	Debbie Niederman
Dr. Raphael Danziger	Kevin Paillet
Dr. Robert Dean	Rabbi Andrew Paley
Cheryl Drazin	Charles Perkins
Melissa Duchin	Ken Portnoy
Mark Ellison	Rabbi Daniel Pressman
Ambassador (ret.) Yoram Ettinger	Charles Pulma
Bob Epstein	Rabbi Joshua Ratner
Josh Feldman	Danielle Rugoff
Eric Fox	Asher Saida
Dr. Serge Frolov	Dr. Yoram Solomon
Boaz Golany	Jesse Stock
Joshua Greenstein	Dawn Strauss
Toba Hellerstein	Rabbi Daniel Utley
Eldad Jacobson	Jen Weintraub
Rep. Phil King	Rabbi Elana Zelony

Exhibitors

ADL	Jerusalem Foundation
AIPAC	JNF
AJC	Southwest Jewish Congress
American Technion Society	Stand with Us
Hadassah	Texas-Israel
Hillel	Chamber of Commerce
Israel Bonds	Texas Jewish Post
J Street	Vered Tours Travel Israel Tours
JCRC /Federation	Zion Oil

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interview from Israel. "Education and communication about Israel are very important for the community."

This comes after the success of the first symposium in 2016, which was attended by more than 350 people and included close to 20 sessions.

"We learned a lot in that first year and we learned from that," Glaser said. "If we are putting something on that's centered around education, we ourselves need to learn each year to best serve the community."

This year it truly is a community event as Temple Shalom has partnered with several area synagogues and Israel-centric groups based in North Texas have been invited to set up booths and exhibit their organizations to attendees at the symposium.

The event is growing from 2016 and the changes reflect that. Many of the popular courses are back for 2017, and the organizers are excited about the new offerings that include discussions on Cultural Conflicts Arising out of Israel's Diverse Immigration, the current status of the U.S.-Israel relationship, the Balfour Declaration, and more.

"There are many, many things about Israel that people don't understand or simply want to know more about," Glaser said. "We want to make it easy to get those answers and we want to spark discussion."

Organizers are also working on involving more youth and have

setup a specialty teen program for the 2017 symposium. The afternoon teen program is designed around including the younger members of the community in an interactive discussion.

"That's the generation, that is the group, that will be taking over eventually; we want them to be included and we feel having a dialogue, a way they can interact, is the best way to do that," Glaser said. "I think that should be a nice addition to the symposium."

And exchanging ideas is the biggest theme of the symposium.

"Education is important, but listening and discussion of Israel makes it easiest for people to connect," Pulman said. "It's important that if someone is interested in learning and want to know more, that they have a chance like this."

The deadline for registering is Aug. 4, and registration is open at IsraelTodayDallas.org. Those interested can also call 214-403-1087. There will also be a free drawing for two round-trip tickets to Israel at the end of the event.

Glaser made sure to point out of the work of Anita Weinstein, who has worked tirelessly on the planning, while countless volunteers have signed up to help.

"That's made this even more of a community thing," Glaser said. "It's great to see this many people come together for Israel."