



The Chronicle

The Community Newspaper of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida

Issue #3, November 2019

Cheshvan - Kislev 5780

JCNCF's 11th Community Mitzvah Day, Sunday, November 17

Mitzvah Day

17th November 2019



Mitzvah Day has projects
for the whole family!



Prepare and serve breakfast for residents of Grace Marketplace!

**Registration and Breakfast
Start at 8:30 am
at UF Hillel**

**2020 W University Ave
Opening remarks by
Marcia Conwell,
President & CEO
Bread of The Mighty Food Bank**

Community members are invited to participate in JCNCF's 11th Mitzvah Day. Please join us in supporting the local non-profits that care for our community and its most vulnerable residents.

Turn to pages 6 and 7 for a full list of projects and partner organizations. For more information, please contact the Jewish Council at 352.371.3846 or email office@jcnf.org.

Save These Dates in December and January!

**PJ Library (Pre) Chanukah Program
with Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Center**

**Sunday, December 15
Time and Location TBA**

**Latkes & Vodkas
(Pre) Chanukah Happy Hour
Tuesday, December 17
Time and Location TBA**

Don't miss the best Chanukah party in town!

**JCNCF Celebration of Education Gala
January 12, 2020**

Save the Date for Sunday, January 12 when JCNCF will honor community members at a gala at the Gainesville Woman's Club. The JCNCF Celebration of Education Gala will be a wonderful evening of fun in recognition of Andrew and Sharon Hirshik and Drs. Ken Wald and Robin West, who have over 100 years of experience in education between them. This event will benefit JCNCF's education programs, including The Beit Ruth Village, The Jaffa Institute, PJ Library and the YES Scholarship Fund. Look for more information about this event in the December edition of *The Chronicle*.

Together we can do extraordinary things!

Visit www.jcnf.org to make your secure donation online now,
or contact us at 352.371.3846 or office@jcnf.org.

The Jewish Council of North Central Florida operates entirely on the contributions of generous community members like YOU! With that in mind, the JCNCF events that you see listed in this newsletter each month are made possible by those donations. Please consider making a gift to the Annual Campaign or to any of our special funds. Your donation supports Jewish causes locally and globally and means so much to so many.

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____ Pledged \$ _____ Enclosed \$ _____

JCNCF Mission Statement

As set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, the JCNCF has been formed to operate and engage in philanthropic, cultural, and other group activities for charitable and educational purposes that shall contribute to the welfare of the Jewish community of North Central Florida and other Jewish communities around the world.

The Chronicle

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of North Central Florida.

Submissions Policy

News and announcements of events that are of interest and open to the entire Jewish community will be included as space allows. The times and places of regular and special Jewish religious events, as well as Jewish organizational events, will be placed in the Chronicle's monthly community calendar.

Please submit original material of 500 words or less, not published or to be published elsewhere, along with photos of interest to the community. Submissions may be e-mailed in Word document format to chronicle@jcnf.org; or dropped off at the Jewish Council of North Central Florida office. Please submit photos in high resolution with a caption identifying the subject and all people depicted. JCNCF reserves the right to edit all submissions. *The Chronicle* does not publish letters to the editor.

The Chronicle and the Jewish Council do not endorse the goods and services advertised in these pages, and make no representation as to the kashrut of the food, products, and services in such advertising.

If you have any questions, email chronicle@jcnf.org or call 352.371.3846.

***All submissions are due on or before
the 10th of the month prior to publication.***

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Annual Campaign Kick-Off Follow Up



On Sunday, October 6, the Jewish Council kicked off its 2020 Annual Campaign with a talk by Eric Fingerhut, President & CEO of The Jewish Federations of North America.

Many thanks to all those who helped make this event possible:

Stuart Cohn
Eric Fingerhut
Edward Finkel
Rabbi Berl Goldman and
the Chabad Catering Staff
Sharon Hirshik
Philip Schwartz
Steven Slutsky
Elizabeth Ziffer
Rabbi Jonah Zinn



JCNCF is Offering Youth Experience Scholarships Again This Year

The Jewish Council of North Central Florida (JCNCF) is proud to be awarding scholarships to individuals between the ages of 10 to 21 who reside in North Central Florida. Individuals are encouraged to apply for scholarships to attend qualified not-for-profit Jewish Youth Experience programs.

The program must be an out of town experience that ends by August 31, 2020. The deadline for application submissions is December 1, 2019. **Applications can be downloaded at www.jcnf.org/services.**

Some of the criteria used in selecting scholarship recipients would include: Demonstrated interest, achievement, and leadership in Jewish education (Religious School, Bar/Bat/B'nai Mitzvah, Jewish Youth Groups, Mitzvah Projects, etc.), reason(s) for attending the Youth Experience Program selected, involvement in community service organizations and/or projects, and financial need.

Recipients will be required to do one follow up activity after their experiences.

Book Review- We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast

By Debra Trione

In 2009 the celebrated Jewish novelist Jonathan Safran Foer published a heavily researched non-fiction book about factory farming called *Eating Animals*. It documented the torture that factory-farm-raised animals are forced to endure on their way to becoming our food. The book reads like an ice-water wake up call to anyone with a conscience, and I recommend it highly.

The author's most recent book, *We Are The Weather* (2019) also advocates for eating little or no meat, but this time for a very different reason: because there is no way we can avoid a catastrophic and irreversible climate disaster without that dietary change.

While the author's first book on animal agriculture is a well-researched expose, *We Are The Weather* feels more like an intimate road trip through time--enriched by soulful conversations, confessions of personal failure, and parables that entertain and drive the narrative on. Whatever questions may occur to the reader about where this trip is headed, the journey will all be worthwhile, because the narrator's voice is so candid, and the view so raw.

I know most of us cringe whenever a pundit tries to liken current events to the Holocaust. It happens far too often. But in this book, the Holocaust comparison is apt.

In 1942, the author's grandmother fled her Polish village to save her life. She left alone knowing only what everyone else in her large extended family also knew: that the Nazis were marching east into Poland, and were only days away.

Those who stayed behind, Safran Foer says, "were no less brave, resourceful, or afraid of dying." They just didn't really believe how bad it could get. He imagines himself with the benefit of hindsight, walking door to door through the shtetl, grabbing each person by the shoulders, screaming "You have to do something!"

Then he flips forward in time and hears his descendants screaming at him. They're suffering overlapping climate traumas: rising seas, forced migrations, armed conflict, rationed food and water, dead oceans and disease outbreaks. "You have to do something!"

But what can we do? Experts cited in the book list four things each individual can do: drive less, use air travel rarely, have fewer children, and eat a plant-based diet. The most immediate and impactful of the four, says the author, is changing our diet.

Here are a few facts that support his case: 1) Eighty percent of deforestation worldwide, and 91% of Amazon rain forest deforestation, has been driven by the "need" for more grazing land for livestock. 2) If you include the impact of the forests that have been cleared, livestock farming is responsible for 51% of global greenhouse emissions, more than all cars, planes, buildings, power plants and industry combined. 3) Not all greenhouse gases matter equally. Methane has 86 times, and Nitrous oxide 310 times, the global warming impact of CO₂. Methane and nitrous oxide emissions come primarily from animal agriculture.

Like many writers before him, Safran Foer likens the Climate Crisis to "a house on fire," a problem that cannot wait. And much of *We Are The Weather* reads like a debate between the author and those who might doubt the need to act:

The crisis seems far away; I don't feel inspired. "Who cares how you feel? The future will only care what you do. You're entirely capable of doing things you aren't moved to do, and refraining from things that you want to do. That doesn't make you Gandhi. It makes you an adult."

What can one individual do? Governments and institutions need to act. Homefront efforts during WWII were not enough on their own to win the war, but the war could not have been won without home front efforts. "Changing the way we eat will not be enough to stop this crisis, but we cannot stop this crisis, without changing how we eat."

I don't want to change. "We should acknowledge that change is inevitable. We can choose to make changes, or we can be subject to changes: mass migration, disease, armed conflict, a greatly diminished quality of life. The luxury of getting to choose which set of changes you prefer has an expiration date, and it's coming on fast."

He leaves us with this view of the generations gazing at each other, in wide-eyed astonishment or disbelief: "My great grandparents lived in a wooden house with no indoor plumbing, and on cold nights would sleep on the kitchen floor by the stove. They never could have believed the things I have today: a car that I drive for convenience rather than necessity, a pantry stocked with foods imported from all over the planet, a home with rooms that aren't even used on a daily basis. And my great grandchildren won't believe it either: How could I have lived so high, and left them with a bill so large? Too large in fact, even to be survived."

--Debra Trione is the author of *A Perfect World: Words and Paintings from Over 50 of America's Most Powerful People*. She worked as an editor for Harvard Medical Magazine, and Harvard University Press, and as a writer for WBEZ, Chicago.

The Ghosts on The Wall at Eastside High School

The Ghosts on the Wall, a play based on the letters of Holocaust victims Curt and Regina Schönwald, will return to the Gainesville stage later this month. It was first performed in April as part of the 2019 Holocaust Remembrance Program.

Before it opens at the Actors' Warehouse on the evening of November 15th, *Ghosts* will debut earlier in the day at Gainesville's Eastside High School.

The idea to stage the play at a Gainesville school was hatched in April when the playwright, the executive director of the theatre company, and an Eastside teacher met to discuss ways to promote tolerance. Because the play makes the Holocaust more tangible by focusing on one family's efforts to escape from Germany, it seemed like the right vehicle to demonstrate the costs of intolerance.

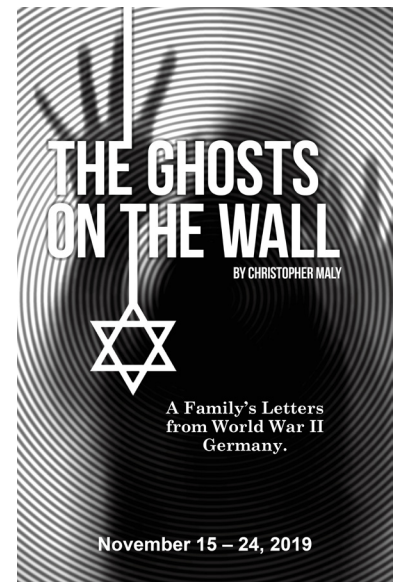
The goal of putting the play into the schools became even more urgent just a few weeks later when several students and parents testified to the Alachua County School Board about the growth of anti-Semitic slurs and attacks on Jewish students in local schools.

Andy Wasserman, a history teacher at Eastside, promoted the idea to his colleagues. The Eastside drama teacher, Tammy Meyers, enthusiastically embraced the idea which was also supported by Principal Shane Andrew and Ann Koon, the coordinator of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

Wasserman hopes that 300 students will see the play. Following the performance, there will be a question and answer panel with the cast, Actors' Warehouse executive director Steven Butler, and Ken Wald, whose essay about his grandparents' letters inspired the play's author, Chris Maly of Lincoln, Nebraska.

There will also be follow-up small group discussions, giving the students an opportunity to relate the play's lessons to contemporary issues such as immigration.

Plans are also underway to bring the play to the Jacksonville Jewish community in the fall of 2020.



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3835 NW 16th Blvd, 32605

Nonperishable Food Collection

Donate your nonperishables that will be distributed locally to various groups to serve those in our community facing food insecurity.

**Winter Wear Drive for
GRACE Marketplace**

Jackets, sweatshirts, socks, sweatpants, warm hats, gloves, scarves, and comforters/quilts for cold winter nights.

Hurricane Dorian Relief Efforts

Supporting the work of local groups, we are collecting items that will be transported directly to the Bahamas! Some of the items being collected: Batteries (D), trash bags, zip ties, tool kits, packing tape and boxes, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, razors, shaving cream, shampoo, condition, soaps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, bug spray, sunscreen, eye drops, brushes and hair ties.

Donate Your Eyeglasses

Looking for a place to take your used prescription glasses or hearing aids? We are happy to take those off your hands.

Casserole Brigade

Volunteers will make vegetarian casseroles for St. Francis House, GRACE Marketplace, and Helping Hands Clinic.

Chavaya DIY Toys

Children will be guided through the process of making and giving a gift from start to finish. The hope is that each child participating in Mitzvah Day will gain a richer understanding of the experience of giving through both the

act of gift making as well as gift giving. The project will consist of four elements:

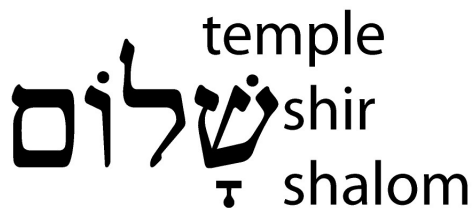
Making a gift for someone else, Discussing the mitzvah of giving, Making a personal card, Giving the handmade gift/card to another participant

DIY Relaxation Gifts

Like our Hebrew school students, our adult Mitzvah Day participants will be presented with several options to create Do-It-Yourself gifts. Some of the gifts will go toward a gift swap and some will go to the Bikor Cholim Committee.

Tech Support for Senior Citizens

Seniors will bring in their cellphones, tablets, laptops and general internet questions on Mitzvah Day. If you have a general knowledge of these devices, please consider signing up to offer your assistance.



**Projects Sponsored by
Temple Shir Shalom**
3855 NW 8th Ave, 32605

**Food Drive for
Bread of the Mighty**

Habitat for Humanity Home Build
Help construct a safe, decent and affordable house for a family
Sponsored by The Social Action Committee at Temple Shir Shalom

**Pet Care Supply Project
St. Francis House Pet Clinic**

Food and Supply Drive
Dog & cat food, treats, bowls, leashes, gallon and quart sized ziplock bags.

TSS Religious School Project

The 6th - 7th grade TSS religious school class is developing and running Mitzvah Day projects for the younger classes.

**Eleventh JCNCF Com
Sunday, No**

Registration, Breakfast
8:30 am a

Special Guest Speak
President & CEO of Bread

For the complete list of
and to pre-register
www.jcncf.org/m



**Projects Sponsored by the
Lubavitch-Chabad
Jewish Student &
Community Center**
2021 NW 5th Avenue, 32603

**Chabad's Terror Victims
Project Israel (CTVP)**

Chabad is collecting laptop computers (new or like new condition only). All laptops will be sent to CTVP in Israel to distribute to terror victims and or their family members.

**Thanksgiving Smiles for
Senior Citizens**

Students will bake, cook and prepare with love for Thanksgiving Smiles.

Community Mitzvah Day November 17

and Opening Program
at UF Hillel
by Ker, Marcia Conwell,
of The Mighty Food Bank
volunteer opportunities
for projects, go to
mitzvah-day.html



Sponsored by UF Hillel 2020 W University Ave

No-Sew Fleece Blankets

Take some time to provide comfort and warmth to children in the community by making no-sew blankets to be donated to Shands Hospital. No-sewing skills necessary. Open to 10-15 people at a time.

Gift of Life Bone Marrow Registry

Learn more about Gift of Life and their important work and how a simple mouth swab can make a difference. Stop by to learn more and get swabbed.

UF Campus Clean Up

Here's a chance to show some of your famous gator pride by taking some time to clean up our beautiful campus.



*Are you and your family
attending this year's
Community Mitzvah Day?*

*How can you support
Mitzvah Day?*

Support Mitzvah Day
with a cash gift!
A gift of any amount helps!

Support Mitzvah Day by
donating supplies needed for
our many service projects

Take advantage of
BOGO offers.

Buy one and donate
one or both!

Some projects still need team
leaders. Contact the JCNCF
office for more details.

352.371.3846
office@jcncf.org



PJ Library Family Project Hosted at UF Hillel

Join us at for the Mitzvah Day
kick-off breakfast and stick
around to participate in several
kid friendly projects with other
PJ Library families.

**Projects Sponsored by
The Jewish Council**
3835 NW 8th Ave, 32605
At the JCNCF office

**Hosted at the JCNCF Office
Clothing Collection and Sorting**

Critical Items Needed:
New and used men's, women's,
and children's clothing,
socks, shoes, for:
Tacachale, Pace, Grace Marketplace,
Helping Hands Clinic,
Reichert House,
Displaced Homemakers and
ARC of Alachua County.

Off Site Projects

Adopt a Street Clean Up
NW 8th Ave, between
13th and 22nd Streets.

**Cooking Breakfast at
GRACE Marketplace**
3055 NE 28th Ave

**Cooking Breakfast at Ronald
McDonald House**
1600 SW 14th St, 32608

Collection Drives:

Food Drive for Bread of the Mighty:

Non perishable food items are
needed for Bread of the Mighty.
Canned tuna or other meats,
peanut butter, baked beans, etc.
Canned veggies and fruit, dried
pasta and cereals.

Household Goods Collection for Family Promise

New and gently used household goods:
cooking pots/pans and dining utensils,
bedroom, and bathroom linens.
Personal hygiene items. Full-sized
shampoo, conditioner and soap.

Make Every Day A Mitzvah Day!

Temple B'nai Darom in Ocala Holds ALICE Training for Congregants

**By Shelly Lebowitz, President
Temple B'nai Darom**

The congregation of Temple B'nai Darom in Ocala would like to thank the JCNCF, who, through the generosity of a donor, was able to offer Jewish congregations in North Central Florida the opportunity to participate in an online training allowing them to be better prepared in the event of an active shooter situation.

Four members of the Temple B'nai Darom Security Committee were able to complete the training and subsequently developed a training which was presented to our congregation on Sunday, September 22.

Howard Shiner, through his son Larry Shiner of Beacon Protection, generously donated, installed and maintains a state-of-the-art security system in our synagogue, opened the training with an explanation of the new system and how it will assist in our safety efforts.

Amir Enzer, Hal and Marilyn Connor led the congregation in a discussion on how to respond in the event of an active shooter and what to do post incident which included a practice drill on evacuating the building.

As we all know, there is nothing we can do to guarantee the safety of all Jews during worship, but we know through our own vigilance, we can minimize the risk. We were very appreciative to have the opportunity to bring this training to our congregation.

ALICE Active Shooter Response Training Course Offered Online Through JCNCF

Thanks to a generous gift from Dr. Norman and Roslyn Levy, JCNCF has contracted with the ALICE Training Institute to offer opportunities for community members to take an Active Shooter Training Course online from their homes or offices. ALICE is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. We are offering this 45 minute online course for free on a space available basis to anyone in the Jewish community who is interested. To enroll, please contact the Jewish Council at 352.371.3846 or office@jcnf.org.

What's Nu at the B'nai Israel Community Day School

**By Debby Kinman-Ford, Director
B'nai Israel Community Day School**

On any average day at B'nai Israel Community Day School you might find children on the playground or in our new wooded play area, taking classes in yoga, nature, Judaics, or fine arts. You will find children playing with puzzles, building toys, taking nature walks or cooking. Beyond all those fun enriching things that happen every day at the day school, you will see the planning and execution of a plethora of family programs. Beginning with our Sukkah City program (did I mention we were invited to speak at a national conference about that program?), we host Waffles in the Sukkah event for

potential elementary school families. The program has the elementary school students making and serving waffles to PreK children and their parents. During that event, parents talk to other parents about how the elementary program works and its commitment to hands on engagement learning.

In early November we host our annual Fall Festival event where people come together to play games, take a hayride, eat and dance. Mid-November is our Thanksgiving program where our children sing songs to our families and make pumpkin pie for their parents. The elementary school creates a model diorama community highlighting local businesses and how everyone in a community works together to culminate their social studies unit. After that, the elementary school hosts an open house for the coming 2020-21 school year. These fall events have large turnouts of families connecting, meeting others with young children and learning about the Jewish holidays. Those programs are an essential part of our school and its commitment to building and fostering community. For the day school, it isn't just about educating children, it's about gathering families together. Happy Fall!



Transitions: Community Life Events

Do you have a life cycle event you would like to share with our JCNCF community? Please submit items to chronicle@jcncf.org. Submissions may be edited as space allows. Pictures are welcome and encouraged! Transitions may include birth, engagement and wedding announcements, bar and bat mitzvah, graduations, promotions and honors, and memorials.

In Memoriam:

Our community mourns the passing of these beloved friends and family members

Margaret Geering,
Mother of Alan Geering and Kim Feigenbaum,
Grandmother of David Geering

George Hirschtritt,
Father of Joanne Hirschtritt Licht and Jonathan Licht,
Mindy and Meryl,
Grandfather of Iszy, Aitan, and Yadid

Annie Keys,
Aunt of Ann-Marie Magné and Lee Schwartz

Beverly Okunieff,
Mother to Paul Okunieff and Debra Trione,
Grandmother of Eva

Betty Primosch,
Mother of Jeremy and Jamie Primosch

Lois Rand,
Sister of Barbara Oberlander

Ira Morris Salkin,
Brother of Sonya Salkin Slott and Marvin Slot.

Rhonda Siegel,
Niece of Beverly and Ed Gilbert

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.



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Gainesville Congregations & Organizations

B'nai Israel Community Day School (DS)

Debby Kinman-Ford, Director

www.bnaiisraelcds.org

352.376.1508, ext 101

Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Florida (CJS)

Dr. Norman J.W. Goda, Director

Sandra James, Office Assistant

web.jst.ufl.edu

PO Box 118020, Gainesville, FL 32611

352.392.9247

Congregation B'nai Israel (CBI)

Rabbi David Kaiman

Jenifer Petrescu, Executive Director

Shauna Sikron, Coordinator of Jewish Learning

Diamond Hadley, Administrative Communications Specialist

www.bnaigainesville.com

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352.376.1508

Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah (HAD)

Meredith Bacharach, President

mwbacharach@gmail.com

352.256.7631.0

Interfaith Encounter Association (IEA)

www.interfaith-encounter.org

Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica (LIB)

at the University of Florida

Dr. Rebecca Jefferson, Director

cms.uflib.ufl.edu/Judaica/Index.aspx

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Gainesville, FL 32611

352.273.2865

Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ)

Rick Gold

goldrickus@gmail.com

571.337.8018

The Tabacnic Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish (LCJC) Student & Community Center

Rabbi Berl & Chanie Goldman, Directors

Rabbi Aharon Chaim & Pessie Notik, Co-Directors

www.jewishgator.com

2021 NW 5th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32603

352.336.5877

Temple Shir Shalom (TSS)

Rabbi Michael Joseph

Ross Van Boven, Director of Religious School

Ann Eisenstadt, Office Manager

www.shirshalom.net

3855 NW 8th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32605

352.371.6399

UF Hillel (HLL)

Rabbi Jonah Zinn

www.ufhillel.org

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www.jordanglen.org

Ocala & Other Congregations & Organizations

Chabad House of Ocala & The Villages (CHOV)

Rabbi Yossi & Chanie Hecht, Directors
www.ourchabad.org
13030 CR 103, Oxford, FL 34484
352.330.4466

Congregation Beth Israel (CBI-O)

Mary Chang, President
www.bethisraelocala.org
4511 SW 48th St. Ocala, FL 34474
352.450.2056

Congregation Beth Sholom (CBS)

Cantor Alisa Forman, Spiritual Leader
www.bethsholomcitrus.org
102 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills, FL 34464
352.746.5303

First Congregation Sons of Israel (FCSI)

Rabbi Joel Fox
www.firstcongregationsonsofisrael.com
161 Cordova Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084
904.829.9532

Ocala Chapter of Hadassah (OHAD)

Judi Siegal, President
morrobay03@embarqmail.com
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Save These Dates

WHEN	JCNCF Programs & Events	WHERE
Sunday, November 17, 8:30 am	Mitzvah Day	UF Hillel, Plus Other Sites
Sunday, December 15, Time TBA	PJ Library (Pre) Chanukah Program	Location TBA
Tuesday, December 17, Time TBA	Latkes & Vodkas (Pre) Chanukah Happy Hour	Location TBA
Thursday, December 19, 2 pm	Helping Hands Clinic Dinner	First United Methodist Church