



The Chronicle

The Community Newspaper of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida

Issue #5, January 2020

Tevet - Shevat 5780

JCNCF's Celebration For Education, Sunday, January 12



*Join us for a fun
evening honoring*
*Sharon & Andy Hirshik
and
Ken Wald & Robin West*
*for their dedication and service
to community and education.*

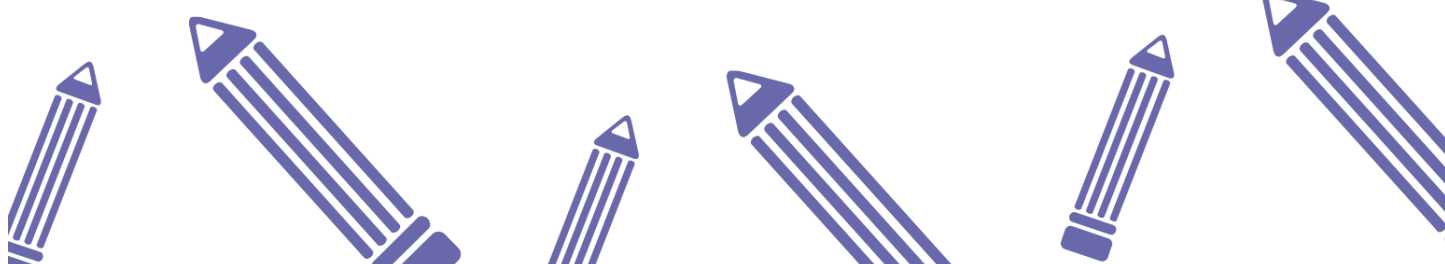


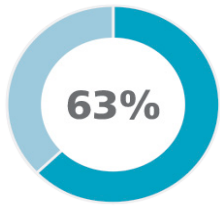
On Sunday, January 12, the Jewish Council is proud to be hosting the Celebration for Education where we will honor Sharon and Andy Hirshik and Ken Wald and Robin West, four members of our community who have been champions for education and community building. Join us at 5 pm at the Gainesville Woman's Club for a festive dinner highlighting JCNCF's educational programs, locally and globally. We are proud to offer PJ Library, PJ Our Way and the Youth Experience Scholarship Fund to our Jewish families in North Central Florida. This event will also benefit our Israel based programs at The Beit Ruth Village in Afula and The Jaffa Institute in Tel Aviv/Jaffa. Special guests in attendance from Beit Ruth will include, Executive Director, Danielle Burenstein, Village Director, Iris Twerski, Communications Coordinator, Ilana Schear, and Beit Ruth alumna, Hodaya. Violinist Sonya Lenore Stahl will be our musical entertainment for the evening. Kosher catering provided by the Tabacinic Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student and Community Center. Couvert is \$75 per person and reserved tables of 8 are \$560. Messages for the honorees are \$100. For more information and to RSVP, please contact the Jewish Council at 352.371.3846.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020 AT 5 PM

THE GAINESVILLE WOMAN'S CLUB

2809 W UNIVERSITY AVE, GAINESVILLE, FL





Together we can do extraordinary things!

JCNCF's Annual Campaign goal for 2019/2020 is \$200,000, and so far we have raised nearly \$126,000. That's 63% of our goal.

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 _____

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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.

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The Chronicle is produced for the community by JCNCF staff and volunteers. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and are not necessarily representative of the Jewish Council Board of Directors or supporters.

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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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Thank You to Everyone Who Celebrated Chanukah with JCNCF



Many thanks to Mark Newman and Steve Soloman and the staff at Leonardo's 706 for another wonderful Latkes & Vodka's.

Thank you to the Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah.

Thank you to The Klezmer Katz.

A special thank you to community members who donated items to our raffle:

Eve Ackerman, Meredith Whittington-Bacharach, Ben Guzick at UpperCrust, Mark Newman and Steven Solomon at Leonardo's 706, Ilene Silverman at Ilene's Gator Store, Debra Trione, and Congregation B'nai Israel Sisterhood.



JCNCF Served Up Holiday Joy at the Helping Hands Clinic

Thank you to the volunteers and sponsors who provided a delicious holiday meal for the women at the Helping Hands Clinic on December 19!

Linda Bobroff, Eloise Harman, Sharon Hirshik, Michelle Jensen, Myrna Neims, Nancy Parks, Heath Lynn Silberfeld, Marcia Storch, and Ward's Supermarket!

Serving the clients at the Helping Hands Clinic each month is a partnership between JCNCF and the B'nai Israel Community Day School. While the students and staff of the day school were on holiday break, members of the Gainesville Jewish community provided a special holiday meal that was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.



Say "YES" to Jewish Education

In 2018, the Jewish Council set a goal for itself to create a mechanism to provide scholarship funds for local area youth to participate in Jewish experiential education opportunities. After several committee meetings and board discussions, the Youth Experience Scholarship Fund was established and the first award was given in 2019. The YES fund and its process for selection and distribution was developed by the JCNCF Grants committee, which oversees our monthly Chai grants program.

The Youth Experience Scholarships provides funding for Jewish individuals between the ages of 10 to 21 who reside in North Central Florida to attend qualified not-for-profit Jewish Youth Experience programs. 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. Additionally, recipients will be required to do follow up work after their experiences. Suggestions include volunteering at PJ Library programs, Mitzvah Day or Yom Ha Atzmaut or speaking about their experiences to community groups.



The first Youth Experience Scholarship recipient was Carter Stein, who attended Camp Shalom in Orange Springs in 2019. He is shown in the photo at left with his mom, Kara Shinn-Stein.

The Jewish Council is proud to announce the 2020 Youth Experience Scholarship winners:

Jasper Anderson, son of Aly Anderson of Gainesville, will attend Camp Ramah Darom in Clayton, Georgia.

Daniel and Matias Colen, sons of Caroline and Robert Colen of Ocala, will also attend Camp Ramah Darom.

Ruth King, daughter of Erin and Jonathan King of Gainesville, is working and studying at Kibbutz Harduf, Israel, through Project Ten with NEXT, a Masa Israel Initiative of the Jewish Agency.



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PJ Library & PJ Our Way, More than Just Bedtime Stories



Alicia Ruden JCNCF's new Family Programs Coordinator.

The PJ Library Program in North Central Florida is a partnership between the Jewish Council of North Central Florida and B'nai Israel Community Day School. Our community serves the surrounding areas in Marion and Alachua counties. We are committed to providing a connection in the Jewish community of not only a fabulous selection of PJ Library books, but also weekly Shabbat and Jewish Storytelling programs, fun activities and a monthly newsletter outlining Jewish preschool programs available to families in our area.

PJ Library sends free Jewish children's books to families across the world every month. We know that something magical happens when parents sit down together to read with their children. PJ Library shares Jewish stories that can help your family talk together about values and traditions that are important to you.

A program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, PJ Library is made possible through partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations. Families with kids ages 6 months through 8 years old with Judaism as part of their lives, are welcome to sign up. PJ Library welcomes all Jewish families, whatever your background, knowledge, or family make-up, or observance may be.

PJ Our Way is for kids ages 9-12. It is kid-driven--they choose their own books, creating a totally tailored experience based their own interests and reading level.



Save the Date Feb 9, 2020

Celebrate Tu B'Shevat - Jewish Earth Day

Meet us @ The Lubee Bat
Conservancy

PJ Library & **PJ OUR WAY**

PJ Library and PJ Our Way are celebrating Tu B'Shevat with a visit to the Lubee Bat Conservancy on Sunday, February 9, 2020. Tu B'Shevat is also known as either the New Year for the Trees or Jewish Earth Day. What better way to celebrate than to learn about animals that live in trees! We'll be gathering at Lubee Bat Conservancy at 12:45 pm, our tour starts at 1 pm and will last between 1.5 to 2 hours. During the tour we will have an animal encounter with their education animals, make fruit enrichment, and visit with the bats!

Keep an eye out for an e-mail or check the PJ Library Facebook page. Registration is a must! We will also be asking for \$7 per person (Admission is \$17-20/person depending on the number of people). Any questions? Contact Alicia at family@jcnf.org.

The Beit Ruth Village Celebrates Its Bat Mitzvah Year

**By Elissa Einhorn, Development & Communications Manager
Beit Ruth Educational & Therapeutic Village**

It is hard to believe that December marked the last month of celebrating the Bat Mitzvah year of the Beit Ruth Educational & Therapeutic Village for at-risk girls in Israel. What an incredible milestone – 13 years of bringing in and caring for girls, most of whom arrived with just the clothes on their backs and, if they were lucky, a toothbrush in their hands.

Hundreds of girls, as young as 13 – frightened and suffering from trauma – were welcomed into the compassionate arms of our staff who provide lifesaving interventions.

We can all be inspired by our girls' perseverance and by their tenacity to take what life has given them – through no fault of their own – and to not just overcome, but to succeed. It is just remarkable.

We look forward to visiting you on January 12 and are grateful to be part of JCNC's "Celebration for Education!"

At Beit Ruth, education comes in many forms. As a cornerstone of our holistic framework, we provide a rich curriculum of academic subjects. We are proud of our girls who, last year, scored an average of 85 points on their matriculation exams – above the national average!

We are also aware of the importance of English-as-a-Second Language to improve our girls' abilities to achieve economic independence and to participate in Israel's global economy. It is with thanks to the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University in Massachusetts that we now have the "Tufts International Fellowship Program." Our first cadre of Summer Fellows arrived in June with primary responsibilities to teach English during the summer school session.

One Fellow shared, "As summer school progressed, I saw girls overcome their insecurity of speaking in a new language – a step that allowed them to vastly improve the flow and content of their speech. One girl who hadn't spoken any English with me the entire summer asked me in English if I could pass her a Bamba snack! This simple question was one of many crowning achievements of the summer."

We are also so proud and grateful to share that since our last visit with you, we have broken ground on a fourth residential house! This will increase our capacity to serve 60 girls at a time. And we are working on raising the funds to build a fifth house.

Within these houses, Beit Ruth girls are being taught dignity because they are treated with dignity. Every decision made at Beit Ruth – from buying new clothes for special occasions, or giving girls the freedom to decorate their rooms – is made with the purpose of treating them with dignity. Every girl receives kindness, love, gentleness, and, yes, firmness, because we all need that too. But no one ever feels less than here because no one is less than.

At Beit Ruth girls don't just wake up each morning – they RISE up – every – single – day. They show up with their courage, their strength, their resilience, and their desire to accomplish so much more in their future than their past would have them believe they could do. How do we know this? Because our girls tell us:

"At Beit Ruth, I was cared for by women who wanted to see me succeed, grow, and flourish, and who saw my potential. And more importantly, they wanted me to see it too. From the first moment – and for the first time – I felt empowered and saw a future for myself that I could be proud of." Hannah, 17 years old

"Beit Ruth completely changed my life. I am grateful and proud of my accomplishments, but what I am most thankful for is breaking the cycle of generational abuse so my three daughters will never have to know a life of fear, of harm, a life on the streets, and a life that is not worth living." Miri, 23 years old

"At Beit Ruth, I found myself not only studying, but wanting to study. After 3 years of not really doing anything at school and believing that I would never accomplish anything, I chose to stay another year to finish my matriculation." Irit, 18 years old

Hannah, Miri, and Irit went from being teenage girls living on the streets, in abusive homes, and in unsuccessful placements to the caring and family-like environment of Beit Ruth. There is no better way to describe it than through our Jewish teaching: "Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire."

We look forward to joining you in January and to sharing more about the Village. We thank you so very much for your continued and critical support of our girls. Wishing all of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year! Thank you for helping to save a world entire.



April groundbreaking ceremony for the fourth house

Jaffa Institute Grows to Serve Tel Aviv's Vulnerable

**By Rachel Norman, Grants and Development Manager
Jaffa Institute**

Just a few miles south of the affluent North Tel Aviv lies Jaffa, where 50% of residents live in poverty. Together, JCNCF and the Jaffa Institute are creating brighter futures in this community.

Established in 1982, the Jaffa Institute is a private nonprofit organization that assists more than 4,000 disadvantaged children and their families to escape poverty annually. We do this through 40 programs, including after-school centers, residential facilities, food initiatives, women's empowerment, and support for Holocaust survivors, immigrants, and others throughout Israel.

At our flagship After-School Educational Enrichment Centers, at-risk children receive hot meals followed by academic and therapeutic support (Photo right). Based on our belief that the children of Jaffa deserve the same opportunities as those in North Tel Aviv or Gainesville, our programming includes music, art, cycling, tennis, soccer, and equestrian. This year, we began to offer surfing. Although everyone fell off their board at some point, the staff encouraged them to get back up, transcend their challenges, and ride the wave.

Congruent with our commitment to equal opportunities, the Jaffa Institute launched the innovative Science Mobile Program last year (Photo below). Operating inside of an RV trailer equipped with cutting-edge technologies, such as 3D printers, the Science Mobile travels to our program sites offering hands-on STEM education. Based on the project's success, we are now building two more Science Mobiles, which will allow us to serve additional children at our Centers and at under-served local public schools.



Ensuring a continuum of support, our Jump Start Program tutors adolescents, resulting in an average increase of 12% in English, 13% in Hebrew, and 16% in math amongst participants last year. When Emile joined the program, he struggled due to his learning disabilities, but he never missed a session with his tutor, Nikki. Thanks to his hard work and Nikki's support, Emile passed all of his finals last June. This year, Nikki is continuing to assist Emile as he transitions from a special education classroom into a mainstream learning environment.

Over at our residential Bet Shemesh Educational Center, the cinema class won a national film award, 11 boys of Ethiopian descent celebrated their Bar Mitzvah, and the seniors graduating from our mainstream track earned the highest matriculation rate of any BSEC class yet — 92%!

As a part of the Jaffa Institute's holistic approach to community development, our Welfare to Wellbeing: Comprehensive Vocational Training Program for Disadvantaged Women assists long-term unemployed women — primarily single mothers — to find jobs. As a result of the program's intensive structure, 83% of the women who graduated this year are now employed.

One graduate, Tami, re-entered the workplace after 18 years of unemployment! She shared the program's impact on her in her own words: "I learned to talk in a positive way. I also came to understand that I have a responsibility as a mother, which is in and of itself an important role, but working also allows you to profit — and not just monetarily."

Strong Families, Strong Israel

In 2019, the Jaffa Institute expanded our Parent-Child Center, which serves disadvantaged families with children ages six and under. In addition to opening a new program site in a low-income neighborhood of South Tel Aviv, our original Jaffa Center also launched a special workshop, "Adjustment to Fatherhood."

In a recent session, one participant shared his transformational fatherhood moment:

"The first time I felt like a real father was last week when I was washing the dishes. While the water was running and I was putting away the plates, my son crawled over and tugged on my pant leg. I looked down and my son was looking directly in my eyes with his arms raised up high, asking me to pick him up. He wasn't asking for food or toys, but for affection, from me. In that moment, I was the proudest father in the world."

As we near the end of the year, we at the Jaffa Institute want to thank JCNCF for your steadfast support over the last 20 years.

Your generosity is helping to provide disadvantaged children and their families with the holistic support they need to become contributing members of the State of Israel.

JCNCF Honors Sharon and Andy Hirshik



Jewish Education was Sharon Hirshik's passion for 20 years. She first taught Religious School at Congregation B'nai Israel in Boca Raton. Following her work at the Religious School, she taught early childhood education at the Donna Klein Jewish Academy, where she then became Director of the Lower School. DKJA was an agency of the South Palm Beach Jewish Federation. When Sharon and Andy moved to Westchester County, New York, she became the Director of the Nursery School at Temple Israel Center in White Plains until she retired in 2005. Watching children gain a strong sense of their Jewish identity was her greatest thrill.

Sharon became a JCNCF Board Member in 2007. She has served as JCNCF president and vice president and has chaired the JCNCF Grants Committee for most of her tenure on the board. The grants committee is an important vehicle to offer enrichment to children in the community. PJ Library began as one of those programs selected by the committee. The newly offered Youth Experience Scholarships also fall under the auspices of the grants committee. Sharon is proud of the good work done by the committee.

Andy Hirshik spent almost 40 years working in Information Management in various locations in the US and Europe, the last 30 with IBM. After retiring to Gainesville, he became active in the Jewish community, serving on the board and various committees of Temple Shir Shalom for over 10 years, including 2 years as board president.

While being part of an organization is rewarding, Andy wanted a more direct "hands on" experience serving the larger Gainesville community. Over the past dozen years, he has been mentoring students as part of the Take Stock in Children program. Working with "at risk" students from middle through high school, mentors help them qualify for and select a scholarship supported college education. While challenging, Andy has found it to be a rewarding experience. Check it out, there is always a great need for mentors just like you.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PLATINUM - \$1,000

6 TICKETS, PERSONAL MESSAGE, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON EVENT WEBSITE, TABLE SIGN

GOLD - \$750

4 TICKETS, PERSONAL MESSAGE, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON EVENT WEBSITE, TABLE SIGN

SILVER - \$500

2 TICKETS, PERSONAL MESSAGE, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON EVENT WEBSITE, TABLE SIGN

BRONZE - \$250

PERSONAL MESSAGE, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON EVENT WEBSITE, TABLE SIGN

JCNCF Honors Ken Wald and Robin West

Ken Wald is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science and the Samuel R. Shorstein Professor Emeritus of American Jewish Culture and Society at the University of Florida. During his UF tenure, Wald served as director of the Center for Jewish Studies and co-founded the Summer Holocaust Institute for Florida's Teachers. He also served on the Florida Commissioner of Education's Taskforce on Holocaust Education. At UF, Wald developed and taught courses on Judaism and politics and Israeli politics and supervised numerous senior theses on those topics. Since retiring, he has continued his research. This includes a new book, *Foundations of American Jewish Liberalism*, published in 2019 by Cambridge University Press. Wald has been a visiting professor at Harvard University, University of Michigan, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Haifa University, University of Toronto, Linnaeus University (Sweden), and the University of Manchester (England). In 2011, he was named the Teacher-Scholar of the Year, the highest faculty award given by the University of Florida.

Robin West, Emeritus Professor of Psychology at the University of Florida (UF), completed her Ph.D. at Vanderbilt and postdoctoral work at the Aging and Development Program at Washington University. She served as Director of the UF Center for Gerontological Studies, Associate Director of the Institute on Aging at UF, and on the B'nai Israel Education Committee. In 30 years of college teaching, Dr. West authored over 70 academic papers, and two popular memory books -- *Everyday Memory Clinic Workbook* and *Memory Fitness Over 40* (published in four countries) -- and developed the Memory Matters curriculum for the National Council on Aging. Other national recognition includes a Fulbright Fellowship to Israel, a MindAlert award from the American Society on Aging for her Everyday Memory Clinic training program, undergraduate and graduate mentoring awards, a Brookdale Foundation Research Fellowship, and the prestigious Lawton Distinguished Contribution Award for Applied Gerontology from the American Psychological Association. The Lawton award was given in recognition of "contributions that have improved the quality of life of older persons." These contributions include research and extensive community involvement in training workshops and public speeches for lay audiences on the topic of memory and how to improve memory at any age.



Celebration for Education Sponsors

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Dr. Jonathan Licht**

Dr. David & Harriett Pawliger

JCNCF to Sponsor Traveling Exhibit: Pictures of Resistance



"This photo is really part of my history as a partisan. This is my 'new' automatic rifle.... I really had to practice how to shoot this one." Date: End of Winter 1943 | Source: JPEF / A Partisan's Memoir, Second Story Press, p. 115

PICTURES of RESISTANCE

GFAA
GALLERY



January 14 - March 14 2020

1314 S Main | gainesvillefinearts.org | Tues. - Sat. 11 - 5

The UF Center for European Studies and the Gainesville Fine Arts Association present a travelling exhibition of the photos of Faye Schulman, the only known Jewish partisan to document the WWII experience on film.

The University of Florida Center for European Studies is collaborating with the Gainesville Fine Arts Association to bring *Pictures of Resistance* to Gainesville. *Pictures of Resistance* is traveling exhibit of the photographs by Faye Schulman, the only known Jewish partisan to document the World War II experience on film.

The lives of partisans depended on their ability to remain unseen, undocumented and unidentifiable. But one fighter, Faye Schulman, had a camera. Schulman's rare collection of images captures the camaraderie, horror and loss, bravery and triumph of the rag-tag, tough partisans—some Jewish, some not—who fought the Germans and their collaborators.

This traveling exhibition sponsored by the Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation (JPEF) poses probing questions about the life Faye Shulman. Why did she become a war documentarian at great risk to her life? How did she get photographic supplies, much less develop the film? How did she manage to survive as one of the few Jewish women among the Partisans?

This rare collection is accompanied by a detailed story behind each photograph, written in a first person by Faye Schulman.

The exhibition is curated by Jill Vexler, Ph.D. who has extensive experience with Holocaust-related exhibitions, including *Letters to Sala: A Young Woman's Life in Nazi Labor Camps*, *Remembering Luboml: Images of a Jewish Community*, and *Oswiecim, Opatow, Auschwitz: Portrait of Memories*, the permanent exhibition at the Auschwitz Jewish Center in Oswiecim, Poland. Additional sponsors for this exhibit are: the Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish Studies and the Jewish Council of North Central Florida

The Exhibition runs from January 14th through March 14th and will be displayed at the GFAA Gallery at 1314 South Main Street. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday 11am – 5pm. More information can be found at gainesvillefinearts.org.

**Save the Date for Yom HaShoah
JCNCF's Community Holocaust
Remembrance Program
Sunday, April 19, 7 pm
Congregation B'nai Israel
Featuring a talk
by Pieter Kohnstam**

Sponsored in part by:



The Alexander
Grass Chair in
Jewish Studies



Front photographs from A Partisan's Memoir by Faye Schulman. Used with permission from Second Story Press, Toronto.

Author Sarah Hurwitz to Speak at Cong. B'nai Israel

**Congregation B'nai Israel cordially invites the
Gainesville Community To**

Sarah Hurwitz

The Power of Your Words: Finding Your Most Authentic, Influential Voice

Tuesday, February 4th 2020
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Held at Congregation B'nai Israel
3830 NW 16th Blvd.



*Senior Speechwriter for
President Barack Obama and
Chief Speechwriter for
First Lady Michelle Obama.
(White House Speechwriter from 2009-2017)*

Ms. Hurwitz has been credited for her help in crafting widely-acclaimed addresses- including Michelle Obama's 2016 Democratic National Convention speech. Hurwitz has also worked as a senior advisor to the White House Council on Women & Girls and has worked as a speechwriter for other Presidential nominees, including Hillary Clinton & John Kerry.

Author of *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life - in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There)*

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Ocala to Establish Tree of Life Sanctuary

Temple Beth Shalom and First Congregational United Church of Christ (both of Ocala, FL), being dedicated to "Tikkun Olam" Hebrew for "Healing the World," commit ourselves to creating a relationship and a facility within which our two communities of faith will each have their own sanctuaries, as well as, share space and provide a place for educational, social justice, and artistic endeavors.

Responding to the imperatives of our respective religious traditions to accept our part in God's work to mend the world, we partner with each other in promoting learning, understanding, and bridging differences by elevating and advancing meaningful and transformative interfaith dialogue and witness in our community and world.

Preserving our respective religious practices and symbols, designing our building, raising funds, maintaining security, coordinating our religious calendars, and organizing how we govern and maintain our assets will require much work and careful attention to practical concerns. We recognize all of these endeavors to be "Sacred Covenant." They summon us toward shared commitment, with a willingness to learn from the each other's faith, traditions and personal experiences offering mutual support in challenge and transition as being powerful examples of interfaith cooperation and ministry.

We have the location, the enthusiasm, the energy, and we have the community. Now, all we need is YOU!

For more information, please call 850.582.0465, email OcalaTreeOfLife@gmail.com, or visit OcalaTreeOfLifeSanctuary.com.



Pastor Hal McSwain, Jr. and Rabbi Ze'ev Harari

B'nai Israel Community Day School is Now Accepting Applications



The B'nai Israel Community Day School is now accepting applications for the 2020-21 school year. Availability letters for the school year will be sent out the week of January 20. The Day School offers programs for ages 3 months through Grade 2 in the 2020-21 school year. For more information, please email dayschool@bnaiisraelcds.org or call 352.376.1508 ext. 110.



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:

Elizabeth Allen,
Mother of Laura and Paul Richards,
Grandmother of Lindsay, Adin, and Naomi.

Arupa Freeman,
Wife of Bob Freeman

Elsa Kula,
Mother of Jessica Jaeger

Isaac Susi,
Father of Benny Susi and Susan Blasberg

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.



Mazel Tov to Sarit Ben-David Sela on being selected as a member of the American Institute of Architects Florida's 2019 class of Citizen Architects! The Citizen Architect designation is awarded each year to those who have exemplified civic engagement and helped to shape community through service.



Mazel Tov to Marcia and Hank Storch who celebrated 50 years of marriage in December 2019!



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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

3830 NW 16th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32605

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

George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida

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

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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

2020 W University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32603

352.372.2900

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Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm: January 15 and 22; February 5, 12, and 19.
at Temple Shir Shalom

Rabbi Joseph of Temple Shir Shalom has announced a series of adult education classes in January and February 2019 on the theme of communal responsibility, and specifically this: what is our responsibility to our community for injustice and shortcomings which we did not ourselves commit? We all acknowledge a level of community responsibility when we pay our taxes for schools and roads, for instance, for police and courts. But what is our responsibility for poverty in our community? For racism or homophobia or gender discrimination? How hard do we have to work to overcome the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow? Once we buy ourselves fuel-efficient cars or install a few solar panels, how much deeper is our responsibility for climate change? Rabbi Joseph will examine these questions from the point of view of Jewish text and tradition, trying to help us set a proper course for ourselves individually and as a Jewish community. This series WILL NOT be about contemporary politics and policy, but it WILL be about our obligations in the contemporary world.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Michael Joseph at mljoseph@gmail.com.

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

352.237.8277

Temple B'nai Darom (TBD)

Rabbi Harold Jaye

www.facebook.com/TempleBnaiDarom

7465 SW 38th Street in Ocala, FL 34474

352.624.0380

Temple Beth Shalom (TBS)

Rabbi Ze'ev Harari

www.jewishocala.com

1109 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34470

352.629.5837

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Save These Dates

WHEN	JCNCF Programs & Events	WHERE
Sunday, February 9	PJ Library and PJ Our Way Celebrate Tu B'Shevat	Lubee Bat Conservancy
Sunday, March 8	PJ Library Purim at the Jewish Cultural Festival	Congregation B'nai Israel
Sunday, March 15 - Saturday, March 28	10th Annual Gainesville Jewish Film Festival	The Hippodrome Cinema
Sunday, April 19	Yom HaShoah Community Holocaust Remembrance Program	Congregation B'nai Israel