



The Chronicle

The Community Newspaper of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida

Issue #4, December 2019

Kislev - Tevet 5780

Latkes & Vodkas, Tuesday, December 17



The Jewish Council is partnering with the Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah to offer Latkes & Vodkas: A (Pre) Chanukah Happy Hour at Leonardo's 706. Join us from 6 to 8 pm on Tuesday, December 17 and celebrate the holiday of lights! This year we are taking over the entire restaurant for the best Chanukah party in town!

Enjoy delicious house made latkes, vodka specials, a raffle, and live music featuring the Klezmer Katz!

Couvert of \$25 includes one adult beverage.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact the Jewish Council at office@jcncf.org or call 352.371.3846.

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

Couvert: \$75 per person

Reserved Table of 8: \$560

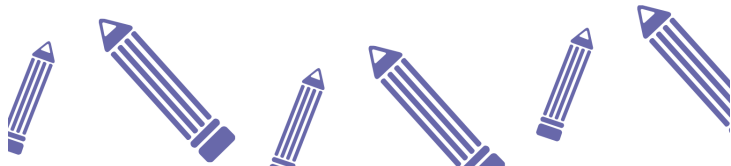
Personal Message: \$100

Please RSVP by Monday, January 6 ~ 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org

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SILVER - \$500

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

BRONZE - \$250

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Together we can do extraordinary things!

JCNCF's Annual Campaign goal for 2019/2020 is \$200,000, and so far we have raised nearly \$37,000. That's 18% 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.

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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.

The Chronicle

is published 10 times per year by the
Jewish Council of North Central Florida, Inc.

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Gainesville, FL 32635-7936
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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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Meet William Alford, Director of Community Engagement & Programs



I have worked with the Jewish Council of North Central Florida since 2016 and I am excited for new opportunities and challenges in the coming years as JCNCF grows and evolves. Part of that growing process is refining the roles of members of our team. With that in mind my role with JCNCF is now Director of Community Engagement & Programs. I will continue to work closely with all of our community partners to facilitate our signature community events, as well as working with our new staff to expand our programming for families and senior citizens. One of my goals in this new position is to strengthen and expand JCNCF's connection to our invaluable community volunteers.

To give you all a little background on my community connections, I am a native of North Central Florida and a UF alumnus. My academic background studying at the College of Central Florida, Florida State University, and the University of Florida included coursework in Political Science, History, and Jewish Studies. The intersection of those three subjects remains an area of fascination for me and I am thrilled to be able to work with esteemed academics and experts that we strive to bring to our community.

Meet Alicia Rudin, JCNCF's New Family Programs Coordinator

I grew up in Queens, NYC. Received my BA in Biological Anthropology from SUNY Albany and then an MA in the same field from the University of Utah. Victor was my college (and fellow science nerd) sweetheart. He followed me to Salt Lake City and then I followed him to Santa Barbara CA (where Izzy was born), Ithaca NY, Victoria BC (where Samantha was born), Lexington KY, and finally Gainesville in 2000. We joined B'nai Israel and both of our children had their B'nai Mitzvah there. I have been always volunteered for one thing or another and enjoyed helping others. I am a retired La Leche League Leader and have helped many moms with not only breastfeeding, but, also just getting through being a new mom or suggested resources available to new and old parents. B'nai and the Jewish community has been central to my life. I am a member of B'nai Israel's Sisterhood and have held various positions on the board for quite a few years.

I am very excited to be working at JCNCF as the Family Programs Coordinator. My hope is to help Debby Kinman-Ford enhance and expand the PJ Library and PJ Our Way Programs; increase number of programs available to our Seniors; start-up Shalom Baby again (let me know of any new little ones expected in the near future!); and assist our Jewish Community in any way I can.



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@jcnCF.org.

Community Chanukah Happenings

Temple Shir Shalom
Grown Up Hanukkah Party
 at the home of Alyssa Zucker & Joyce Kosack
 all proceeds to the Religious School.
 Saturday, December 7, 6 to 9 pm
 \$10 per person, rsvp to
office@shirshalom.net
 for more details and to arrange payment.

Congregation B'nai Israel
Hanukkah Party
 Sunday, December 22, 5 to 7 pm
 \$25 adults & \$15 kids (non-member prices)
 rsvp to jenifer@bnaigainesville.com

Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student
and Community Center
Grand Chanukah Celebration
 at the Bo Diddley Plaza
 Sunday, December 22, 4:30 to 6 pm
 Live Performance, hot latkes, sufganiyot,
 music and dancing! Menorah, dreidels
 and gelt for everyone!
 Free of charge, donations appreciated.
 For more information
 or to help sponsor the Chanukah Celebration,
 please email Rabbi@JewishGator.com



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Israel News in Brief

Two Albums from Bands Led by Israelis Get Grammy Nominations:

Anat Cohen's *Anat Cohen Tentet* and Ori Naftaly's soul/blues/R&B band *Southern Avenue* each get Grammy nods for their sophomore albums.

Two sophomore albums from groups from Israeli musicians' bands have received nominations for the upcoming 62nd annual Grammy Awards.

The Anat Cohen Tentet, fronted by Israeli jazz clarinetist Anat Cohen, received a Grammy nomination in the Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album category for "Triple Helix."

Israeli EMTs Serve Falafel to Save a Family

After a United Hatzalah volunteer is badly injured, fellow EMTs work shifts at his falafel shop, and overseas supporters buy portions online.

On November 15, United Hatzalah volunteer EMT Tal Cooperstein was rush-



Israeli Flying Aid's Gal Lusky receiving a plaque from Chad First Lady Hinda Deby Itno. Photo courtesy: Israel21c.com

ing to a medical emergency in Bat Yam when a driver struck his ambucycle. He was seriously injured and has a long recuperation ahead of him.

Cooperstein only recently opened a falafel shop in Bat Yam's industrial zone to support his wife and five children. The accident has put both his family and his business in danger.

Dozens of United Hatzalah volunteers

from around the country came to his rescue.

Taking time from their own work and volunteer activities, they organized shifts at Harel Falafel during peak hours for the next two months.

Israeli NGO Flies Vital Aid to Women and Kids in Chad

Israeli Flying Aid brings supplies to refugee camps, hospitals and orphanages in this landlocked African country that suffers constant terror attacks.

One day in October, Sephora was sick with worry. She cares for 105 orphans in Chad, and food was running out. The kids were subsisting on corn porridge, white rice and pasta.

Suddenly, five Israeli Flying Aid (IFA) volunteers appeared at her doorstep. When she saw the Star of David on their shirts, she started to cry.

Read these stories in full, and many more on Israel21c.org

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JCNCF's Eleventh Community

On Sunday, November 17, the Gainesville Jewish Community joined volunteers around the world to make this the largest international Mitzvah Day yet!

Special thanks to Rabbi Jonah Zinn, Marya Slade, and Rebecca Gurvets at UF Hillel for organizing and hosting the kick-off breakfast!

Thank you also to the staff, team leaders, and volunteers at Congregation B'nai Israel, Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student and Community Center, and Temple Shir Shalom.

We are proud to be your partner in *Tikkun Olam*!



Congregation B'nai Israel's casserole

brigade assembled **29** casseroles that will be distributed to local charities fighting hunger in our community.

In all, **24** adults and **29** children

took part in **9** different hands-on projects at Congregation B'nai Israel.



Troop 709 volunteers

worked for **2** hours

and assembled **145** toiletries bags and **52** snack bags for the homeless. As well as **75** dog toys and **9** no-sew blankets.



10 volunteers packaged over

200 pounds of pet food for St. Francis Pet Care Clinic.

For more project photos, visit JCNCF's Facebook page.



Mitzvah Day By The Numbers



6 volunteers

served **175**
people at GRACE
Marketplace for just

\$132

Visit www.gracemarketplace.org to learn how you can too.



Marcia Conwell of Bread of the Mighty with Andy and Sharon Hirshik



Volunteers also donated supplies that were distributed to the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank, GRACE Marketplace, Helping Hands Clinic, and Family Promise. These organizations need your support all year long. *Please remember them when you make every day a Mitzvah Day!*

Clothing Sorted for Local Charities:
ARC: **2** bags, Partnership for Strong Families: **15** bags
GRACE: **16** bags, Helping Hands Clinic:
15 bags, Focus on the Future: **11** Bags,
PACE: **7** bags, Tacachale: **4** bags

30 students from Temple Shir Shalom's Religious School classes, with the help of

5 teachers and **3** parent volunteers, made

50 sandwiches for the hungry. The students

also made **30** cards and jewelry for children at UF' Shand's Hospital.



For the **11th**
year

13 volunteers

cleaned **1** mile of
8th Ave.

PJ Library Update

By Debby Kinman-Ford, Administrator
PJ Library North Central Florida

On November 17, PJ Library families joined the rest of the Gainesville Jewish community to participate in JCNCF's annual Mitzvah Day. Our youth participated in many activities in several different locations. We love watching our youngest community members engage in social action!

In December, PJ Library will be partnering with UF Chabad and Lowe's for a (Pre) Chanukah Factory. This program will be on Sunday, December 15 at 1 pm. We will have some fun treat bags for our PJ Library kiddos put together by our new Family Programs Coordinator, Alicia Rudin. We are so thrilled to have her join the PJ Library team.

In other exciting PJ Library news, we just met to plan our Winter/Spring programs. Look forward to some programs at community locations, such as, the Lube Bat Conservatory, the UF Museum of Natural History, and the Jewish Cultural Festival at Congregation B'nai Israel. We are also planning an exclusive PJ Our Way program for the spring. Watch your mailbox for postcards with the dates, times and locations of these programs.

It's going to be an exciting 2020!!!

Cafe B'nai with Chavaya

By Shauna Sikron, Coordinator of Jewish Learning
Congregation B'nai Israel



In early November, our Chavaya Hebrew school students presented a special fundraiser for our school known as "Café B'nai" to community members. Putting a lesson on Jewish enterprise to practice, students in kindergarten through sixth grade ran all aspects of the café. From preparing food, squeezing juice and making coffee to taking orders and ringing up checks, parents and community members delighted in seeing our youth put together such an enjoyable café experience.

Together with several parent volunteers and the Chavaya staff, the Hebrew school students prepared fresh cookies, Israeli salad and hummus to serve with bagels. They also hand-squeezed fresh juice, made smoothies to order and offered a full range of coffee that included espresso, cappuccino, lattes and cold brew.

The fundraiser was a great success and one of the most beloved programs by our students yet! They were challenged to work together through their service, to create in the kitchen, to count money, and to manage a full dining room of (very patient) patrons! They did a fabulous job!

We welcome everyone to visit Chavaya's reprisal of Café B'nai on February 9th. Not only will students be serving up their delicious goodies and coffee again; they will also collaborate with the B'nai Israel Knitting Circle to sell floral crafts in celebration of Tu B'shvat!

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:

Dr. Stanley Cullen,
Husband of Jodi Cullen.
Father of Jackie (Rick), Mary K. (Dan), Gerald,
Stuart (Liza), Steve, Rebecca (Bill), and Elana (Joel).
Grandfather of Leslie, Finale, Russell, Miranda,
Elliott, Laly, Oli, Emily and David.

Sally Vexler Klein,
Mother of Heather and Jenifer Klein
Grandmother of Ella Miranda
and Alexandra Elizabeth Zubieni.

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.

Mazel tov to Marjorie Baros for being named Duval Early Learning Academy's Teacher of the Year!

Mazel tov to Evelyn Efron on her Bat Mitzvah. Evelyn is the daughter of Philip and Margaret Efron and the sister to Sophia and Henry. Evelyn celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at Temple Shir Shalom on Saturday, November 2.



On Thursday, December 19, the Jewish Council will serve a meal to 40 or more homeless and/or hungry women at the Helping Hands Clinic, which is an ongoing project of the First United Methodist Church.

Volunteers are asked to provide one or more elements of the meal. For questions about appropriate menu items and quantities, please contact JCNCF at 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org. Thank you!



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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)

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Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah (HAD)

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www.interfaith-encounter.org

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Congregation Beth Sholom (CBS)

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Ocala Chapter of Hadassah (OHAD)

Judi Siegal, President

morrobay03@embarqmail.com

352.237.8277

Temple B'nai Darom (TBD)

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Save These Dates

WHEN	JCNCF Programs & Events	WHERE
Sunday, December 15, 1 pm	PJ Library (Pre) Chanukah Program	Lowe's on 13th St
Tuesday, December 17, 6 pm	Latkes & Vodkas (Pre) Chanukah Happy Hour	Leonardo's 706
Thursday, December 19, 2 pm	Helping Hands Clinic Dinner	First United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 12, 9:30 am	PJ Library Pop-Up Playgroup	Location TBA
Sunday, January 12, 5 pm	JCNCF's Celebration for Education	Gainesville Woman's Club