



The Chronicle

The Community Newspaper of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida

Issue #6, February 2020

Shevat - Adar 5780

PJ Library Goes Batty For Tu B'Shevat on February 9



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!

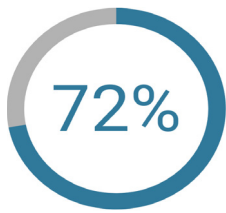
Registration is a must! We will also be asking for \$7 per person (Admission is \$17-20/person depending on the number of people). Any questions? Contact Alicia at family@jcnf.org.

10th Annual Jewish Film Festival Opens on March 15

The Jewish Film Festival returns to Gainesville's historic Hippodrome Cinema in mid-March. The annual festival will mark its 10th year and will once again feature twelve or more films, almost all of which are new releases. Some films to watch for are *Incitement*, a dramatization of the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin; *The Rabbi Goes West*, a fascinating documentary about a Chabad Rabbi moving into a small Jewish community in Montana; and *Standing Up, Falling Down*, a new comedy starring Billy Crystal and Ben Schwartz.

Look for a complete list of festival offerings and the screening schedule in the March edition of *The Chronicle*. The Gainesville Jewish Film Festival, which is a collaboration between the Jewish Council and the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Florida, opens on Sunday, March 15 and will run for two weeks. For more information and to purchase tickets and passes, please go to www.JCNCF.org or contact the JCNCF office at 352.371.3846.





Together we can do extraordinary things!

JCNCF's Annual Campaign goal for 2019/2020 is \$200,000, and so far we have raised nearly \$144,000. That's 72% 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.

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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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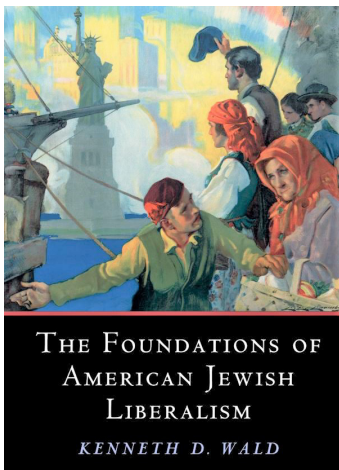
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Dr. Kenneth Wald Receives National Jewish Book Award

Congratulations to Dr. Kenneth Wald for winning the National Jewish Book Award for his latest book, *The Foundations of American Jewish Liberalism*.

From Dr. Wald: I was stunned to receive this award and to be included among authors like Deborah Lipstadt, Robert Alter, and Pamela Nadell. Over the years, I've given talks to various Jewish audiences in town based on the material in the book. The feedback was helpful in enabling me to strengthen the argument and clarify some of my assumptions. Like raising a child, it takes a *shtetl* to write a book.

About the Book: In their high levels of support for Democratic candidates, American Jews differ politically from non-Jewish Americans who share their social traits and Jewish communities elsewhere in the world. These anomalies grow out of the distinctive political context and favorable political opportunity structure that Jews encountered in the United States. At the founding, they began to develop a distinctive political culture based on the principle of equal citizenship in a secular state. Drawing on opinion surveys and extensive archival research, he traces the development of this culture by examining the controversies and threats that stimulated political participation by American Jews and how this classical liberal understanding of the polity reinforces the Jewish partisan and ideological tradition today.



January Activities with “The Group”

On Sunday, January 5, over 60 people gathered at the Alachua County Library for a New Year's Meet and Greet (photo below left). This event was planned by a coalition of African-American and Jewish leaders who are working together to foster greater understanding of each other's communities. “The Group,” as the coalition refers to themselves, has been meeting for a couple of years to dialogue about shared experiences and challenges. The goal of the January Meet and Greet was simple, the organizers wished to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones.

On Sunday, January 19, 20 people from the African American and Jewish communities attended the Star Center Theater's performance of *Anne and Emmett* (photo below right). This powerful and moving play featured two main characters, Anne Frank and Emmett Till, who meet in a place called Memory to share their stories with each other. The Jewish Council sponsored the group's attendance.



Hillel Rallies Students to “Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate”

**By Rabbi Jonah Zinn, Executive Director
Hillel at the University of Florida**

In a time marked by discord and division on campus and across the country, students at the University of Florida gathered on the ‘hole-iest’ holiday of the year, National Bagel Day, to unite the campus community around a mutual love of the ring shaped bread product and a common commitment to “Spread Cream Cheese Not Hate.” Throughout the day on January 15, 2020, over 45 student volunteers tabled in Turlington Plaza where they asked their fellow students to take a pledge to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of hate and join with their fellow Gators to ensure UF is a welcoming and safe place for all.

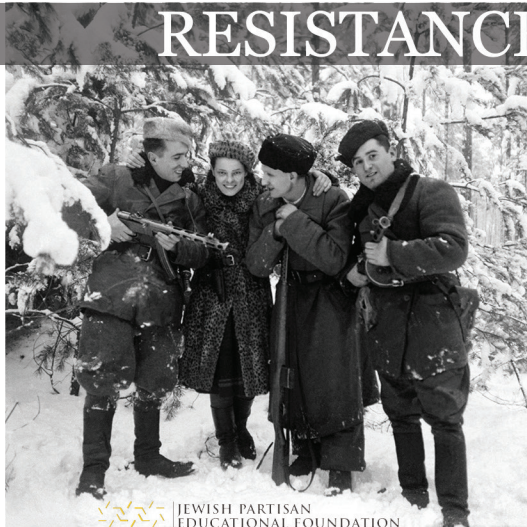
By day’s end 736 Gators had taken the pledge and volunteers had distributed some 500 free bagels and shmear. “National Bagel Day provided a platform launch a new coalition on campus,” explained Rabbi Jonah Zinn, Executive Director at University of Florida Hillel. “We plan to follow up with the students who took the pledge and ask them to put their words into action by getting involve combating anti-Semitism and hate.” Follow up activities in the works include a series of training sessions with the Anti-Defamation League.

Hillel has made mobilizing students to counter anti-Semitism a priority this academic year. In November, UF Hillel sent a group of students and a staff member to Pittsburgh to participate in an anti-Semitism on campus conference hosted by the Pittsburgh Jewish community in response to the Tree of Life synagogue shooting. Students returned to campus inspired and highly motivated to combat anti-Semitism and other acts of hate here at UF and in their home communities.



PICTURES of RESISTANCE

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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.

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



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Leader of Jews for a Secular Democracy to Visit Gainesville

By Rick Gold, Gainesville Humanistic Judaism Community

To counter the influence of religion on government policy, Jews for a Secular Democracy (JFASD) galvanizes the Jewish community to defend the separation of church and state. While there are excellent secular organizations fighting for the separation of church and state and great Jewish organizations fighting for social justice, JFASD is uniquely focused on issues of religion-state separation from a Jewish perspective. Jews for a Secular Democracy draws on Jewish history and teaching to advocate for a civil society that provides equality for people of all backgrounds and beliefs, protected by a government neutral toward religion in its fair enforcement of policy and law.

Paul Golin, the lead staff of JFASD, is visiting Gainesville February 14-16. He will be a guest speaker at the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Oak Hammock (ILR) on Saturday February 15 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. His presentation is entitled, "Separation of Church and State – A Jewish Perspective." Paul will facilitate a conversation about how the Jewish community addresses church-state separation issues such as abortion rights, LGBTQ+ equality, secular education in schools, and religious freedom. The event is open to all. More information about ILR classes is available at www.ilr352.org. Oak Hammock is located at 5100 SW 25th Boulevard in Gainesville.

Jews for a Secular Democracy is a project of the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ), the congregational arm of a movement of over 25 congregations and havurot that combines a humanistic philosophy of life with Judaism as the cultural and historic experience of the Jewish people. Paul Golin also is SHJ Executive Director. Paul will speak to the Gainesville Humanistic Judaism Community about the Humanistic Judaism movement and its links with the Jewish and humanistic communities on Sunday, February 16 from 12:15 to 2:00 pm at the Alachua County Library Headquarters Foundation Room. The Library is located at 401 E. University Ave. For more information, visit <https://www.meetup.com/Gainesville-Humanistic-Judaism-Organizing-Committee-Meetup>.



Paul Golin, Jews for a Secular Democracy Executive Director

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The History Behind a Recently Defaced

**By Norman J.W. Goda, Director
Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Florida.**

This article was originally published in History News Network, a publication of The George Washington University.

On 21 October a Holocaust memorial in the French city of Lyon was vandalized. The memorial plaque at 12 rue Sainte-Catherine in the central part of town contained the names of the 86 Jews arrested at that address on 9 February 1943. It was the largest single roundup of Jews in the city. Most of those arrested were subsequently murdered in Auschwitz and Sobibor. On the plaque, black paint was used to cross out their names.

Sadly this is only the latest such act of defacement in Europe and the US this year. Still, there is something especially ironic about this instance. The victims of this roundup had already been, effaced in a sense--forgotten after the war, then manipulated during the 1987 trial of Klaus Barbie, the Gestapo chief whose signature was on the Nazi records concerning the roundup, and finally ignored by the passage of time as it changed the once picturesque alleyway in central Lyon.

The Germans occupied Lyon with the rest of southern France in November 1942, but as of February 1943, the Gestapo in Lyon had arrested very few Jews. The German police were understaffed, underinformed, and they had to contend with French resistance networks in Lyon, which formed a critical hub of underground activity. Jews, meanwhile, were hard to find. Most, (even those who had arrived from Eastern Europe) spoke French and the trade in false identification papers became more vigorous with time. As one Gestapo officer put it, France was "an accursed country" because "you cannot tell a Jew from a non-Jew."

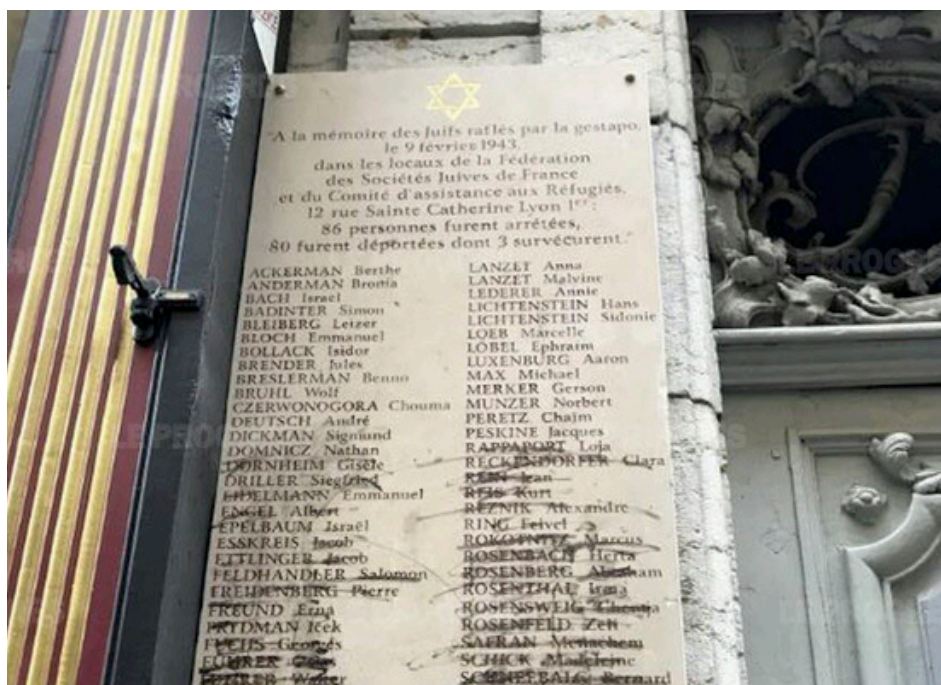
12 rue Sainte-Catherine housed the Lyon headquarters of the Union générale des israélites de France (UGIF), the umbrella Jewish organization created at the behest of the German and French authorities. It continued the social welfare activities of prewar Jewish charitable organizations. 9 February 1943 was a distribution day. Jews arrived seeking everything from ration cards to medicines to advice on reaching and crossing the Swiss border. They were easy targets. Gestapo agents with military escort entered the UGIF offices and simply waited for Jews to show up. Eighty-six Jews were arrested. Others were warned away by the few who escaped the trap. Klaus Barbie reported to his superiors that he had bagged a critical resistance network. It was an early version of Barbie's later tall tales of counter-intelligence expertise. But though the Gestapo fortuitously arrested a handful of young men and women involved in the Zionist underground, Barbie knew nothing of them or their network. None were even interrogated before their deportation.

The roundup was largely forgotten afterwards. Most of the arrestees were gassed, the few who escaped the roundup hid successfully, and Gestapo crimes in Lyon and its environs over the next year and a half became bloodier, ranging from torture to summary shootings to mass reprisal killings. With the liberation of France in August 1944, it was these most recent atrocities, locally carried out and largely against resistors, that were adjudicated. The French military trial of Barbie in 1952, in which Barbie was tried in absentia, centered on the bloody April 1944 German counter-insurgency campaign in the Jura region. A subsequent trial of Gestapo officials in 1954, in which Barbie was tried again in absentia, covered a range of crimes including the mass shooting of resistors in Saint-Genis-Laval and the mass killings at Bron airfield just before the German retreat. There was no mention of the rue Sainte-Catherine roundup.

Barbie, meanwhile, forged a new life for himself and his family in Bolivia, where the US Army Counter-Intelligence Corps had sent him in 1951 following four years of surely sub-standard work for the Americans. He was not discovered until 1972, not deported to France until 1983, and not tried in Lyon until 1987. "New" crimes now had to be found. Barbie was to be tried not for ordinary war crimes, but for crimes against humanity, which the French government made imprescriptible in 1964. Moreover, crimes already adjudicated in the 1950s could not be retried. Barbie had indeed committed several crimes that fit the legalities of 1987 trial, the details having been researched by Nazi hunters Serge and Beate Klarsfeld in the Gestapo records collected and held by the Centre de documentation juive contemporaine (CDJC) in Paris. The roundup at rue Sainte-Catherine was one of these crimes.

The matter was open and shut. Relevant Gestapo records with Barbie's signature were submitted into evidence, and early in the trial, escapees and the lone living survivor from the roundup testified as to how the Gestapo arrested them or their loved ones. But a cruel wrinkle emerged by trial's end. Barbie's defense attorney was Jacques Vergès, a controversial and outspoken celebrity attorney known for anti-colonial activism. His clients in the 1950s included members of Algeria's National Liberation Front standing before French military courts. In the 1960s, Vergès's anti-colonialism developed into a more pronounced anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. He spun conspiracy theories concerning the Rothschilds' supposed behind-the-scenes machinations before the Six-Day War, and he wrote polemics defending Palestinian terrorists who, he said, were stigmatized by imperialists backed by Jewish money. Now Vergès argued that the Barbie trial was a political setup by Zionists who aimed to obscure what he called similar Israeli crimes in the Middle East. The Zionists, Vergès insisted to one French magazine, "are always holding this [type of] trial. They rehash them so as always to appear as victims." The Algerian press concurred that the Holocaust was "the Jewish Olympic flame which maintains global financial power imposed by the media."

French Holocaust Memorial



In his three-day summation at the end of Barbie's trial, Vergès wove an elaborate theory. Why, he asked, was the rue Sainte-Catherine roundup only raised "out of the mud" in the 1980s? The answer, he said, was so that the Jews could manipulate its history. Barbie had reported in February 1943 that he had arrested resisters, and indeed, Vergès falsely argued, East European Jews at the rue Sainte-Catherine on 9 February had links to the Allies through Switzerland. Barbie had thus engaged in legitimate military counter-espionage. But the roundup, Vergès professed to reveal, was actually occasioned by the UGIF itself. The Union was "a collaborationist body," of bourgeois French Jews who, like Vichy itself, viewed the deportation of poor working-class Jews as politically desirable. "It was the directors of the UGIF themselves," Vergès said, "who lured the families to the headquarters ...

under the pretext of providing aid." The court exhibits, Vergès continued, distorted the true picture. Records submitted into evidence were handpicked at the CDJC by his nemesis Serge Klarsfeld, while the UGIF records that revealed the "truth" lay hidden in same Jewish archive, which, he said, secretly maintained "a quasi-monopoly of information." "Only the UGIF records, in possession of the CDJC, would have been able to get at the bottom [of] this roundup.... The archives at least partially place the responsibility on Jewish notables in the deportation of their brothers. Must we cover this responsibility or transfer it to Lieutenant Barbie? The question ... looms in the conscience."

In fact, the UGIF records at the CDJC had been open to researchers for many years. Vergès plagiarized much of his summation from journalist Maurice Rajfus's deeply flawed book on the UGIF, published nearly a decade earlier, based on some of the long-available UGIF files. The French dailies did not doubt Barbie's fundamental guilt. Still, having turned out in force to hear Vergès's fiery summation after having skipped most of the trial including the testimony from the roundup's survivors, some reporters were almost willfully bamboozled. No journalist followed up with the CDJC itself to see if records were really hidden. Instead Lyon Figaro assessed Vergès's summation on rue Sainte-Catherine as "sometimes confused" but also "sometimes brilliant." The Paris dailies were fascinated by the theme of "Jewish collaboration" and they liberally quoted Vergès's one-liner that "the Jewish community ... had its traitors."

Though the court found Barbie guilty on all counts, the charges of Jewish coverups hung in the air. On the anticolonial and anti-Semitic left, Tunisian-born writer and filmmaker Said Ould Khelifa claimed that the Barbie verdict perpetuated the "western tendency toward the hierarchization of inhumanity." Focusing on the rue Sainte-Catherine roundup, Khelifa wrote that Vergès had delivered to the Jews a "terrible revelation." The court, Khelifa insisted, had simply not seen all of the evidence. In the years ahead, French Holocaust deniers routinely referred to UGIF collaboration with Vichy as a disclaimer of Jewish victimhood, and in the 1997-98 trial of former Vichy official Maurice Papon, the defense falsely charged that the UGIF had drawn up Papon's deportation lists.

The plaque at 12 rue Sainte-Catherine accurately listing each of the roundup's victims under the symbol of a Star of David was installed in 2011 by the Association of the Sons and Daughters of the Jewish Deportees of France. But it is a Holocaust memorial that, even before its defacement in October 2019, had been increasingly, and gloomily, out of place. The upper floors where terrified Jews were arrested in February 1943 have housed a barely reputable late night establishment named the Sauna Club des Terreaux since before Barbie's trial in 1987. Gritty bars and take-out stands flank the building on either side. Few if any passers-by notice the plaque, the names on which were forgotten after the war, manipulated by anti-Semites thereafter, and now, have finally been, quite literally, crossed out.

If you are interested in receiving news from the UF Center for Jewish Studies, please visit <https://jst.ufl.edu/> to sign up for their e-newsletter. You will receive email updates of classes and public programs, links to their YouTube channel and social media sites, and streaming videos and podcasts of the world class scholars who speak at the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Florida.

Highlights from JCNCF's

On Sunday, January 12, the Jewish community gathered at the Gainesville Woman's Club for JCNCF's Celebration for Education, an evening to honor Sharon and Andy Hirshik and Ken Wald and Robin West for their dedication and service to education and community building. Proceeds from this event will benefit JCNCF's local educational programs, PJ Library, PJ Our Way and the Youth Experience Scholarship (YES) and the Israel based partners at The Beit Ruth Village and The Jaffa Institute.

Debby Kinman-Ford served as the MC for the evening and the program included comments and well wishes from Stuart Cohn, Mitch Chupak of The Jaffa Institute and The Beit Ruth Village's Executive Director, Danielle Burenstein and alumna, Hodaya. US Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz also provided a pre-recorded message of congratulations for the honorees. The Board and Staff of the Jewish Council wish to thank all the guests and sponsors who made this event possible. We are especially grateful to Sharon and Andy Hirshik and Ken Wald and Robin West for their many years of engagement and support of the JCNCF, in particular and the Jewish community, in general. Their dedication to community building has made an important impact!



Below from left to right, 1. B'nai Israel Community Day School Director Debby Kinman-Ford. 2. Rabbi Jonah Zinn Jamie Zinn of UF Hillel, Debbie Joseph and Rabbi Michael Joseph of Temple Shir Shalom, 3. JCNCF Director of Community Engagement & Programs William Alford, Rabbi Berl Goldman and Chanie Goldman of UF Chabad, 4. JCNCF Family Programs Coordinator Alicia Rudin, JCNCF board members Ido Oren and Jodi Oren, Debby Kinman-Ford, Larry Hartfield, Scott Tomar and Jill Tomar, 5. Beit Ruth Village Managing Director Iris Twirsky, Beit Ruth alumna Hodaya Sekori, JCNCF President & CEO Virginia Brissette Hirshik, Beit Ruth Development & Communications Coordinator Illana Schear, Beit Ruth Executive Director Danielle Burenstein.



Celebration for Education

at right, Youth Experience
rship recipients Carter Stein
is mom Kara posing next to the
rary banner, Jasper Anderson
is mother Aly, and Matias Colen
is mom and dad Carolina and
t Colen.



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Countering Anti-Semitism and Bullying

by Heath Lynn Silberfeld

This is another in a series of articles about anti-Semitism and bullying—and progress made in countering them—in the Gainesville school system. Subsequent articles in this series will focus on actions taken by the school board and how other parents and students who attended the May 2019 school board meeting currently perceive any progress made.

We know that since 2016 the number of anti-Semitic incidents has increased manifold in this country, even as our diverse Jewish nation has felt safer than perhaps ever over thousands of years. Locally the story may be a more positive one, but in my opinion caution is advised lest we assume a deep healing that has not taken permanent root.

Last May, several impressively articulate Jewish middle-school students, their families, and other members of our local Jewish community attended an Alachua County School Board meeting to address multiple incidents of anti-Semitism in the school system. The adults and youths who spoke emphasized that the bullying can be anti-Semitic in nature or it can spring from a host of other cruelly miscalculated prejudices—be it race, religion, ethnicity, country of origin, gender, weight, height, or some other characteristic that cannot be controlled, such as the need to wear eyeglasses or braces, or placement in a mainstream rather than a magnet program.

This month I briefly share one family's story. Parents Stacey and Ben Steinberg and middle-school student Mason Steinberg, now in eighth grade and treasurer of his class, were at the May school board meeting. Both Ben and Mason spoke eloquently then, and today they concur with each other that the situation is noticeably improved this school year in some ways. Both Stacey and Ben enthusiastically report that they feel completely supported by the school staff. Stacey considers the principal, guidance counselor, and other staff at Mason's school to be fully committed to resolving as well as preventing any bullying problems among students. Ben is confident that "If these problems are still happening to sixth and seventh-graders at Howard Bishop Middle School, it is being addressed in the moment appropriately."

Mason has full confidence that he can go to the principal, his guidance counselor, or the student government advisor to discuss anything, including any inappropriate behaviors exhibited by his fellow students. "I trust my teachers and school administrators. They have become like family." He adds that he's changed since seventh grade, and now that he's in eighth grade he feels more capable of responding to any bullying. He says, "I don't give the bullies what they want any more and don't let them get to me"—responses that have been very effective in getting them to stop taunting him. In addition, if he experiences or sees something troublesome, he gathers the evidence and shares it with teachers and other staff who can do something about it. He adds, "At Bishop, nothing but good has happened since bringing these matters to their attention, and everybody is very sincere about effecting change."

Although new curricula are mandated, curriculums don't change quickly. It takes a while for a school system to implement new teaching modules. Mason expects that new mini-courses on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism will be in place before the end of this school year. Meanwhile, he assumes that "some kind of bullying is going on in the lower grades, and it may be anti-Semitic in nature, but after those students take part in the new mini-courses, I am hopeful that a bunch of them will realize how wrong their behavior is, and the few kids left bullying will realize they are not doing anything special and that they're not getting anything out of it."

In Ben's view, if there is a positive aspect of having anti-Semitism in the news, it is that it is far more difficult for people everywhere to ignore it anymore. He proudly notes, "I trust my son. He has earned it, and so have the faculty and administrators and the school board. What I don't know about are the parents. Even in the best of worlds the board can only do so much. The schools are not fostering these beliefs. It's not deep-rooted hate that the kids engage in. The intangible is the parents and what the kids hear. When we get into the homes and the minds of the people who are fostering those beliefs, that's when real progress will happen."

Fortunately, members of the Jewish community, including some impressively articulate middle-school students, are keeping a watchful eye on actions taken in response to voiced concerns, and *The Chronicle* will publish updates as we learn about them.



Mason Steinberg at home.
Photo by Heath Lynn Silberfeld

Purim Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Congregation B'nai Israel

Jewish Cultural Festival
Sunday, March 8 at 11 am
Melligah Reading
Monday, March 9 at 6 pm

Temple Shir Shalom

Old-fashioned Purim carnival
for kids and their families
Sunday, March 15, time TBD


Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student and Community Center

Purim in Israel Celebration
Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 pm



Community members are needed to help with JCNCF's annual Purim bag delivery. Volunteers will deliver approximately 10 bags each to local area seniors. Bags will be ready for pick up on Tuesday, March 3 through Friday, March 6 at the JCNCF office.

If you would like to volunteer to deliver bags or provide sponsorship for this program, please contact Family Programs Coordinator Alicai Rudin at 352.371.3846, or email Family@JCNCF.org.




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**By Marcia Storch, President
Temple Shir Shalom**

In early December, over 5,000 North American Jews, and others from around the world convened in Chicago for the URJ (Union of Reform Judaism) Biennial. The last Biennial was in Boston, which was the fourth Biennial that I had attended. I was unable to go to Chicago this year, but watched many of the speakers, events, Shabbat Services, and song fest via live streaming. If you have never attended a Biennial, I wanted to give you a brief view of what a fantastic and energizing event it is. The five days are filled with learning, praying, sharing ideas, dancing, singing, hearing from inspiring speakers and leaders of the Reform Movement, plus reuniting with old friends, finding new friends, creating new connections, and having an opportunity to help make decisions about the policies of the Reform Movement. This event is the epitome of Jewish Geography.

As a member of a small congregation in my previous residence and now as a member of Temple Shir Shalom, I would follow the Small Congregation theme of learning sessions. I learned that whether you are a congregation of 25 or 1000, our challenges are very similar. The over-all feeling of Tikkun Olam, Repair the World, was felt in this year's speakers, Jodi Kanter, Deborah Lipstadt, Pamela Schuller, and Soul Children of Chicago, Sarah Hurwitz (who will be in Gainesville on Feb. 4th), Rabbi Jonah Pesner, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of URJ, and Elias Rosenfeld, immigration rights activist, who said "It is our responsibility to make our immigration system more just and compassionate. If there has ever been a time to use our privilege, resources, advocacy, and agency against these cruel acts of injustice, it is now and today."

The words of Daryl Messinger's, Outgoing Chair, URJ North American Board, words rang true to me, "There is plenty about the world today that may divide us, that we might fear, but what do all of us gathered here have in common? Let me suggest one, deceptively simple answer: We love being Jewish...I've been amazed, impressed, and inspired by all the ways large and small, that we demonstrate our love for being Jewish."

Delegates to the biennial meeting in Chicago voted overwhelmingly and historically to advocate for the creation of a federal commission to study and develop proposals for reparations to African American for slavery. The text not only urges the federal government to act, but it also commits the 850 congregations in the movement to redress the effects of historic and ongoing racism and evaluate institutional efforts to promote racial equity.

Cantor Elana Arian introduced a song whose words I pray we can live by in this new year: *I have a voice, My voice is powerful, My voice can change the world.*

Leap into Spring: Contra Dance & Dinner Evening Saturday, February 29, 2020 Temple Shir Shalom

The evening will begin with a concert at 5:00pm, followed by Contra Dancing at 5:30. Dinner will be served at 7:00. Cost is \$75 per person. Please RSVP by February 20th, 2020 at www.ShirShalom.net/donate, or call 352.371.6399. Sponsorship opportunities are available. This is Temple Shir Shalom's most important fundraiser of the year. Please consider becoming a sponsor! Contact Tamara at Temple Shir Shalom at office@shirshalom.net

Have You Heard About Temple Shir Shalom Green Team?

**By Jane Stanley, Green Team Communications Coordinator
Temple Shir Shalom**

Have you heard about the Temple Shir Shalom Green Team? Our Green Team, created in response to the looming threat of climate change and the high energy costs at our synagogue, strives to make a difference. Our first steps included making Shir Shalom more energy efficient through improvements to our building. We are replacing our outdated thermostats with "smart" thermostats, seeking better insulation for our attic, and updating our lighting with LED bulbs. These steps will not only save Shir Shalom money on our electricity bills- they will also reduce our carbon footprint.

Our Green Team also works toward educating the Jewish community about steps we can take to reduce our carbon footprint and energy costs at home. All the energy-efficient improvements we are making to the Temple are changes you can make in your home or business. To learn about improvements you can make in your home, check out livingthechange.net/commitment-tool and <https://theyearsproject.com/learn/news/individual-solutions-climate-change>. For an introduction to organizations your synagogue can reach out to, check out <https://www.jewishearthalliance.org> and <https://www.jewishclimate.org/>. Please contact Ellen Siegel (boodog301@bellsouth.net) regarding how to start a Green Team at your synagogue.

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@jcnf.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.

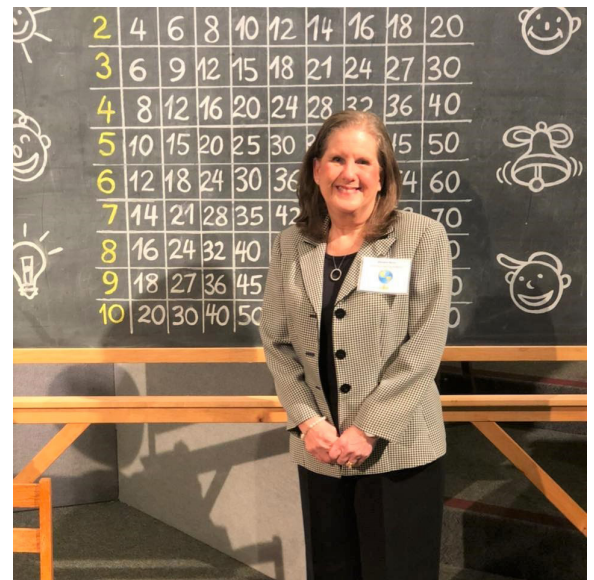
In Memoriam: Our community mourns the passing of these beloved friends and family members:

Sara Bertrand,
Wife of Jacques Bertrand.
Mother of Brett Steiner and Jarred Steiner.
Stepmother of Chase Bertrand and Maggie Bertrand.
Grandmother of Lorelei, Logan, Lily and Noah.

Eleanor Schmidt,
Mother of Stephen and Joshua Kaufman
and Claire Brown Kaufman.
Grandmother of Ben, Alex, Caroline and Katherine
Kaufman and Shaina and Joel Brown.

Roslyn Slater,
Wife of Phillip Slater.
Mother of Natalie Slater and Elisa Rusonis.
Grandmother of Shana Iles, Erin Rusonis,
Alana Rusonis, Rachel Rusonis

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.



Mazel Tov to Marjorie Baros for receiving the Teacher of Year award from Duval Early Learning Academy!



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Shauna Sikron, Coordinator of Jewish Learning

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Meredith Bacharach, President

mwbacharach@gmail.com

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Interfaith Encounter Association (IEA)

www.interfaith-encounter.org

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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

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Ross Van Boven, Director of Religious School

Ann Eisenstadt, Office Manager

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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



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www.ourchabad.org
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 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
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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 - Thursday, March 26	10th Annual Gainesville Jewish Film Festival	The Hippodrome Cinema
Sunday, April 19	Yom HaShoah Community Holocaust Remembrance Program	Congregation B'nai Israel