



# The Chronicle

## The Community Newspaper of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida

Issue #8, April 2020

Nisan - Iyar 5780

### Times Are Uncertain. Community Is Not.

**By Virginia Brissette Hirshik, President & CEO  
The Jewish Council of North Central Florida**

When we were wrapping up the March edition of *The Chronicle* in late February, we were aware of, and talking about, the Coronavirus. But we definitely had no idea of the magnitude of the changes we would all be in for. Fast forward a few weeks and everyone we know is using terms like “social distancing” and “flattening the curve,” and millions of people worldwide are living under quarantined conditions. Despite the solitude of “sheltering in place,” our current technology enables us to stay in touch and remain connected. How quickly the Jewish community was able to pivot through this crisis is remarkable. Congregations and organizations quickly moved services, classes and activities online and there is no shortage of opportunities to gather and to learn via Zoom and other platforms.

It is surreal to celebrate Passover, the Festival of Liberation, while under state, county and city mandate to remain in our homes. For many, this year’s seders will include technology as we never imagined before. Who knows? Going forward, families who live apart may choose to always observe holidays including loved ones via video conferencing. Congregations may decide to always livestream their services and programs, to be inclusive of those who are not able to attend in person. Boards may meet online as a regular practice. It will be interesting to see how much the world changes as a result of this pandemic. With that said, change is scary and hard. We are all having difficult conversations about budgets, staff, programs and priorities. We want to assure our North Central Florida community that while the Jewish Council has postponed the spring film festival and moved our Yom HaShoah and Yom HaAtzmaut programs online, we are maintaining our staff and planning for programs in the fall. We are grateful that, thanks to your support, our organization is solid and can weather this storm. We look forward to the days when we can gather in person and wish each other a *Chag Sameach* with a smile and a hug. G-d willing, those days will come soon! May you and yours have a happy, healthy and safe Passover.

### Yom HaShoah & Yom HaAtzmaut Go Virtual This Year



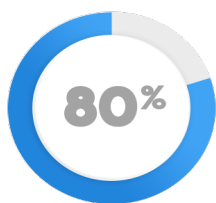
JCNCF will continue our tradition of recognizing Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, by offering a virtual community commemoration that will go live on Sunday, April 19 and will also be available to view afterwards. The commemoration will include major segments from several of our previous programs that retain their power and relevance today.

Information on the link to access the virtual program will be available on the JCNCF website.

This year the Jewish Council invites the North Central Florida Jewish community to celebrate Israel with a virtual interactive concert experience with Israeli musician, Rami Feinstein.

Rami will be broadcasting live on Facebook, Sunday, April 26 at 3 pm! More details on how you can access this exclusive concert experience will be available soon. For more information, please contact JCNCF at 352.371.3846 or [office@jcncf.org](mailto:office@jcncf.org).





## Together we can do extraordinary things!

JCNCF's Annual Campaign goal for 2019/2020 is \$200,000, and so far we have raised over \$160,000. That's 80% of our goal. Visit [www.jcnf.org](http://www.jcnf.org) to make your secure donation online now, or contact us at 352.371.3846 or [office@jcnf.org](mailto: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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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Pledged \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### JCNCF Mission Statement

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

### The Chronicle

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### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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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## L'hitrayot Scott and Jill Tomar, We Will Miss You!

After Passover, Gainesville's Jewish community will be losing a dynamic duo to Chicago. Jill and Scott Tomar came into town 20 years ago, bringing with them a love of Judaism and devotion to their community. Scott has taken the position of Associate Dean of Prevention and Public Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He will continue to further his interest in community based dental outreach, public health education and research. Jill, has worked as a school nurse in Alachua County for most of her time in Gainesville, will take some time to get to know her community and figure out what her next step will be professionally.

Both Scott and Jill have been integral parts of Congregation B'nai Israel (CBI) and the greater Gainesville Jewish community. Scott will be stepping down as Treasurer of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida and Chair of CBI's Ritual Committee. He is also a past-President of CBI's Board. Jill's involvement in the Jewish community is far reaching, she is currently on the Board of Directors of Women's League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ), past-President of Florida Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism and is currently the WLCJ Torah Fund Vice-President of Florida Region. As Jill would make sure you knew, Torah Fund is not used for buying torahs, it is used to provide scholarships to future Jewish clergy and educators. Her involvement in CBI's Sisterhood is just as illustrious, she is one of the past-Presidents, Torah Fund chair, as well as chair of the Judaica Shop committee.

The Tomars are very devoted to their family, Josh (son) and his wife, Jaxxie in Los Angeles; Avi and his new fiancé, Jessica in Washington, D.C.; as well as their extended families in the greater Philadelphia area.

Jill and Scott are very loved and will be missed by their many friends. Friday night potlucks will not be the same.





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# PJ Library Celebrated Purim at the Jewish Cultural Festival



**By Alicia Rudin, Family Programs Coordinator, JCNCF**

On Sunday, March 8 PJ Library families got their Purim on! We made groggers and crowns the old school way. We used paper plates and beans for the groggers for great tonal quality. Both the groggers and crowns were decorated with markers, stickers, and lots of sticky-backed bling. The creativity was phenomenal, just look at the pictures next to this article. It was so much fun! Many thanks to my partners, Corinne Lipnick, and my mom Addie Rudin.

I can't wait to all of your submissions for the PJ Library Virtual Passover Scavenger Hunt!



## PJ Library Virtual Passover Scavenger Hunt



Don't forget to  
share your  
answers on FB  
in the Event  
discussion

**Send Answers  
or  
Questions to:**

Alicia Rudin

[family@jcnf.org](mailto:family@jcnf.org)

**VIRTUAL PASSOVER SCAVENGER HUNT  
THE TEN PLAGUES**

**PJ Library**  
& **PJ OUR WAY.**



Each family will be emailed a pdf of the clues. Please send your answers to [family@jcnf.org](mailto:family@jcnf.org). Don't forget to post your answers to the discussion section of this FB event or to our new FB group G'ville PJ Library, so that other PJ library families get to enjoy your creativity. Answers can be a photo, drawing, poem, comic, short video, or anything else you come up with - have fun brainstorming with your families!



# Make the Match

A generous donor has pledged to match donations to PJ Library received between Purim and Yom Ha'Atzmaut.

Did you know it costs \$40/year/child for a PJ Library Subscription?

We have 39 children on our waiting list.

Help us get every child enrolled!

For more info:

Alicia

352.371.3846

family@JCNCF.org



# Ruth King's Youth Experience

By Ruth King,  
JCNC Youth Experience Scholarship Recipient 2019



Teaching English in Zarzir.

My first time attending synagogue was when I was nine days old, and since then I have been an active member of the Gainesville Jewish community. Throughout high school I hoped to continue practicing and exploring Judaism with enrollment at Brandeis University, but did not feel deserving of attending college immediately following secondary-school graduation. Before spending more time and other resources on my education and future, I wanted to contribute some measure of significant amelioration to an international community via a gap year spent volunteering.

With the generosity of the Jewish Council's Youth Experience Scholarship, I spent five months in Israel volunteering with Project TEN, a program run in conjunction with Masa Israel and the Jewish Agency. The eleven other participants and I lived in Sha'ar l'Adam-Bab Lil'insan ("the Gate to Humanity"), a small, environment-focused community nestled in the forest between Kibbutz Harduf and the Bedouin village

Ka'abbiyye. Living alongside us were a midrasha (a gap-year program for Israeli high schoolers before they enlist in mandatory military service), a kibbutznik family, and an ephemeral group of adults we referred to simply as the Forest People. These elusive folk drifted in and out of white-shrouded yurts on the periphery of Sha'ar l'Adam. Sometimes weeks would go by without a Forest Person sighting, then they'd turn up in the gardens or at the pub and regale us with tales of their mystical wanderings. I was never sure just how they ended up in Sha'ar l'Adam or what they were supposed to be doing there. I don't think they ever knew either.

Although mutual bewilderment was an unintentional central trend of Project TEN, the main focus was co-existence in a multitude of forms: externally (between our group and our surroundings), internally (within our group), and personally (within ourselves).

One example of external coexistence was our work in the Bedouin schools. Three days a week I taught English to elementary schoolers in Zarzir, a nearby village similar to Ka'abbiyye. Here it became clear that some of the political tensions between Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs are both less and more a part of everyday life than was portrayed to me via outside news outlets. On the one hand, I never felt anything other than welcome in this community. Days began and ended with hordes of children swarming the school entrance for a quick hug before heading to class or returning home. I've grown up with rowdy, personal-space-invading Jews and Brazilians and was at home in the decibel-defying raucousness. But not everyone shared this inter-ethnic affection. One morning I complimented Suhair, the Bedouin teacher with whom I worked, on the chromatically-contrasting ensemble she was sporting. She thanked me and offhandedly added that the other teachers didn't like when she wore that dress simply because it was blue and white.

There were also instances of contention from beyond the borders of the community. A participant on my program declined to attend the marriage of our Bedouin supervisor because her family was scared for her safety. Outsiders (foreigners and Jewish Israelis alike) often responded with similar surprise and concern upon hearing I lived closely with Arabs. One memorable exchange began with "So, are they the hostile Arabs or the nice ones?"

Another of my volunteering vocations took place at Beit Elisha, a specialized community within Harduf for differently-abled adults who contribute to the kibbutz in one of a variety of industries. Their involvement yields occupational and social therapy for the members and provides financial benefit for Harduf. Nervous and bumbling, I felt relieved on my first day at the workshop to meet Vanessa, another Francophone. Because her English and my Hebrew were lacking we would normally have had to rely on a bilingual third party as translator. However, because we unexpectedly shared a common language we could be linguistically independent when partnering together for work. The goal of Beit Elisha is to promote autonomy among its members, people who are often socially restricted due to physical limitation or neurological atypicality. I was not the intended target of this campaign, yet I too felt empowered and proud.

I was also incredibly moved to learn the story of another member. Chen had been born neurologically typical. He founded an incredibly successful clothing retail company and became a multimillionaire. He married and had children. One day



## Five Months In Israel - Half a Year of Infinities

he fell off a ladder while changing a light bulb and suffered a severe brain injury. Chen ended up homeless and outcast from his family, eventually finding his way to Beit Elisha. His story, which he told to me repetitively and non-contiguously over the months I worked with him, stunned me. I remembered when my mother was involved with an agency that did advocacy work for people with physical difficulties. "TAPS", she and the other workers were called. Temporarily Able-bodied People.

Working in the schools and Beit Elisha, biodynamically harvesting mysterious and nutritional vine potatoes, hosting surprise guests from all around the globe-- these are all examples of our external coexistence with other cultures, individuals, and the land around us. There was harmonious diversity within our group as well. My cohort consisted of twelve people hailing from five countries and four continents, representing variety in age,

native language, religious background, and current stage of life. These differences never engendered division, unless someone raised the question of what a real pancake is (note: the Germans were wrong), and instead served to solidify us in our joint mission of coexistence. We observed Australia Day with fairy bread and vegemite, celebrated Advent with Israeli candles and German carols, and slathered maple syrup on everything from salad to cereal to appease our Canadian. The relationships I formed with my cohort are some of the deepest and most heartfelt of any in my life.

Lastly, I explored personal coexistence. I never felt fully comfortable with my Judaism in Israel. As one of only two people who practiced traditional Shabbat observance in the secular communities of Sha'ar l'Adam and Kibbutz Harduf, I was regarded as "too" religious and was told by one of our supervisors to "be less Jew" when I was asked to describe the traditions that make a Sukkah kosher. In the five months I lived in Israel I was only able to attend synagogue a handful of times. The closest shul to Harduf was an hour's walk away. I made the trek my first weekend but felt unwelcome and uncomfortable behind the slatted wooden mechitza and didn't return. It felt bizarre not to be in services on the High Holidays, however, through the obliging co-incidence of time zones, I was able to watch part of B'nai Israel's Rosh HaShanah service live online, and am grateful to those who established and maintain this virtual connection.

Conversely, when out in greater Israel society I felt considered too liberal a Jew and, by some, not even a Jew because of my parents' lineages. Some of the strictly traditional took the liberty of explaining what Shabbat and the mitzvot are, while a girl I chatted with on a bus told me that as part of the Conservative movement I'm "not on the right path". Of course these few irritating instances are nowhere near representative of all Jews in Israel. However, each time I was "Jewsplained" to or avoided on the sidewalk or shot a sideways glance at, it served a stinging reminder that I had not yet found my place. For living in the Holy Land I did not feel wholly landed.



Celebrating erev Rosh HaShanah.



Posing on our last day at school with one of the fourth-grade classes.

Even still, the past five months have been without a doubt the best of my life. Israel provided me with half a year of infinities to which I will never be able to do justice in either writing or speaking. I thank the JCNCF for their support in making this experience a reality. It's easy to take for granted the incredible privilege of growing up within a religiously diverse and welcoming Jewish community. One that encourages questioning and challenging and standing up for what's right. And one that agrees on the correct consistency of a pancake.

# Donors, Awaken: Jewish Nonprofit

By Felicia Herman,

Felicia Herman is Executive Director of Natan, co-chair of the Tarrytown Group, a group of Jewish foundation and Federation CEOs; and she sits on the boards of the American Jewish Historical Society; Amplifier, a network of giving circles inspired by Jewish values; DreamStreet Theatre Company, whose cast is made up of adults with developmental disabilities; and Sefaria, an online library of Jewish texts

*This story originally appeared in Tablet magazine, at [tabletmag.com](http://tabletmag.com), and is reprinted with permission.*

*"We are at risk for losing a significant part of the infrastructure of Jewish life in America."*

It was that sentence, uttered last week by one of the core leaders of the Jewish nonprofit communal system, that fundamentally changed my understanding of the COVID-19 crisis. You don't have to care about Jewish organizations in particular to be worried about this—because unfortunately, this point holds true across the nonprofit sector in America and beyond.

My lane is philanthropy and the nonprofit sector, and after a week of conversations with funders and grant recipients alike, I see a speeding 18-wheeler about to slam into this lane, coming the wrong direction, obliterating just about everything in its path. Let me be very clear: I'm not talking at all about the virus itself. I am talking about the financial collapse of the nonprofit sector and the disappearance of the very organizations that remind us of our highest humanitarian and communal values. Organizations that inspire, educate, connect, nurture, and provide care for all of us, including (but not only) the most vulnerable.

I run a small foundation in New York City focused on supporting cutting-edge Jewish and Israeli nonprofits. Natan is a giving circle: Our funding comes from our members, who aggregate their contributions and collectively make grant decisions. We are also a venture philanthropy, funding new and emerging ideas addressing key challenges in Israel and in Jewish communities around the world. This gives us a unique vantage point in the philanthropic ecosystem: We're focused on engaging "everyday givers" in thoughtful, intentional philanthropy on the one hand, and on funding nonprofit innovation on the other.

The first email from a grant recipient asking for emergency funding came in last week; since then we've seen dozens. Our conversations with our grantees and with our colleagues across the Jewish philanthropic sector over the past week or so have been, to be frank, terrifying.

I'm not sure that everyday, individual givers—who account for 68% of giving to American nonprofits, and who interact with and benefit from institutions that are the bedrock of our communities and that enrich all of our lives—understand that we're currently at risk for losing much of what we hold near and dear in our communal lives.

The almost overnight shutdown of all of our institutions means no earned revenue for many organizations that rely on it—no ticket sales, no registration fees, no memberships. (Cultural institutions in New York—the first to lose revenue from closed facilities—are already experiencing widespread layoffs.) Then there are the currently catastrophic losses in the financial markets, which are wreaking havoc on the endowments of the few nonprofits large enough to have them, as well as on the wealth of many prospective donors, including foundations. And finally, if widespread unemployment comes to America and it persists, then we will see Depression-level drop-offs in memberships, fees, and donations, with a concomitant uptick in the need for social services and relief of all kinds.

In the past few weeks, we've come to understand more about how small businesses and restaurants work and the ways that many of them are at serious risk if they stay closed; and we've watched the airlines, cruise companies, and the hospitality industry implode and begin to furlough thousands. But how many of us understand how nonprofits work?

I'll tell you: Most are hand to mouth. Most don't have endowments. Few have cash reserves. ("You mean you didn't spend everything we gave you?" ask major donors, disincentivizing organizations from putting reserves away.) Some operate in the red each year; even more just scrape by. Almost all have cash flow problems. (This is why, when you make a donation online, many organizations ask you to make recurring monthly donations—to try to steady their cash flow.)

What happens to organizations that must stop operating at the same time that their donor base can't or won't give? They go broke, and very quickly. They lay off workers and they close, sometimes forever. They take with them the heart and soul of our communities.

Donors of all sizes, large and small, need to awaken to this reality. This means you—no matter how much you give or to what. Have the emergency fundraising appeals started to trickle into your email inbox? The little theater in town, the food bank, the church, the community center? These are but the first tiny waves in a tsunami that all of us must understand is coming.

Even as each of us struggles with our own personal, family, and professional challenges—including, in many cases, potential employment and loss of personal investments—we need to be thinking about how much we can spare to try to preserve the communal organizations that we and those before us have built, generation after generation, and the new



# Organizations Face Financial Collapse

organizations that continually come to the fore to fill gaps and adapt to new challenges and opportunities.

All of the money in all of the government bailouts in the world—even if they include nonprofit institutions and workers, which not all of them will (despite the lobbying efforts of nonprofit organizations)—all of that money won't be enough to stop the financial collapse of the sector. All of the grant and loan pools now being created by major foundations and donors—incredibly generous and inspiring and collaborative and strategic as they are—even that won't be enough. The devastation will be too widespread and too deep.

For days, I've been on calls with CEOs of major Jewish foundations and federations (the umbrella organizations that, to differing degrees, aggregate and coordinate philanthropic allocations to Jewish communal organizations in communities across North America). Those leaders are working tirelessly to coordinate massive new grant and loan programs, and they're absorbing, daily, the pain of agonized calls from nonprofit leaders staring massive layoffs in the face. They are worried about the mental, intellectual, and spiritual health of their communities. They're resilient, my dear colleagues and friends who are called to the work of serving their communities every day, and they are innovative. They will create new systems and collaborations to do what they can. But there is only so much they can do unless all of us, the individual givers, also step up.

So what can we do?

First, we need to come to terms with the fact that this part of our society is tremendously at risk, and that they have no fallback plan.

Second, we need to give to them, or they will go out of business.

I can speak most definitively about my own tiny corner of the world, the American Jewish nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. I use these to illustrate the broader problem, not to argue that these organizations are more or less worth saving than others. Our sector is identical to any other part of the nonprofit world. Here's what's at risk: nonprofit preschools, synagogues, food banks, afterschool programs, formal and informal Jewish educational programs, services for vulnerable populations, Jewish community centers, museums and historical societies, arts and cultural institutions, nonprofit media, educational trips, youth groups, summer camps, organizations building tolerance and fighting hate, and on and on and on.

Some of these are human services organizations that fit into the "basic needs" categories that we intuitively understand we need in a disaster. The rest may seem like "luxuries" in comparison, but they are the warp and weft of our daily lives—they are what make us human. Furloughs and layoffs will begin very soon; most organizations simply cannot go for too long without revenue or the ability to run programs. Even those institutions that have adapted quickly and beautifully to (free) online programs—these too will collapse without membership dues, program fees, and donations.

All we can do as individual donors is this: Understand the needs of the organizations in our community that we care about, carefully assess our own financial situations, stressed as they may be, understand which programs our hearts and souls can't afford to lose—and give.

Do a kind of "triage" for your giving: Decide what you care about the most and where your dollars can have the most impact. Give to the organizations you love, that feed your soul (which will, by the way, make you feel more empowered and inspired in a time of mass anxiety). Collaborate with other givers wherever possible—either through collective giving vehicles like giving circles, or by giving to the collective giving institutions in our communities that are shouldering enormous, communitywide burdens, such as the Jewish federations, community foundations, the United Way. And then just give—as humbly, as sensibly, and as generously as you can.

## A Message from the Jewish Council

One of the values of a Jewish Federation in times of crisis is that of its extensive reach through its network of community agencies, synagogues and related organizations. Federation is uniquely positioned to map and manage overall communal needs. It can also galvanize its partners to identify and respond to those needs and ultimately work with the largest donor base in the community to help fund those needs. This is what Federation does day in and day out and this is what your Annual Campaign dollars fund year in and year out.

As a yearly investor in the Jewish Council of North Central Florida, you appreciate the importance of community. Your investment means even more in times of crises so that we continue to support those organizations and programs which make our Jewish community a special place to live. Thank YOU!. Without your generosity year in and year out through the Annual Campaign, the Jewish Council would not be in a position to respond to today's crisis. Please make your 2020 Annual Campaign commitment today. Your support mean so much to so many!

# Remembering Estelle Aden (1925 – 2020)

By the JCNCF Yom HaShoah Committee



Estelle Aden during JCNCF's 2018 Holocaust Remembrance.

Estelle Aden, who passed away on March 21, 2020, was a force of nature who left her imprint on education, the theater, civic life, and our own Jewish community. Words like “indomitable” and “resolute” were frequently used to capture her passion and impact across these numerous arenas. We at the Jewish Council of North Central Florida together with many members of the larger Gainesville community mourn her passing.

Those of us in JCNCF and particularly on JCNCF's Yom Hashoah Committee, enjoyed many years of working with Estelle to organize and present our annual Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) community commemorations. Both we on the committee and the numerous Jewish and non-Jewish participants and attendees will recall the point in each year's event when Estelle dedicated her dramatic talents and resonant voice for her readings of the poems and other texts, which she usually had found and selected and which became integral features of our community events. Indeed, Estelle's readings were often among the most memorable and moving moments of our efforts to preserve the memory of the Holocaust – as well as our recognition of horrifying incidents of mass murder and genocide in our own times.

Although Estelle's spirit and resonant voice are irreplaceable, one or more recordings of Estelle's recent readings will be rebroadcast at this year's virtual Yom Hashoah commemoration, and will be avail-

able online thanks to the tireless efforts of our Yom Hashoah committee colleague, Philip Schwartz.

Estelle was born in Brooklyn in 1925 as the youngest sibling in her large family. From an early age and throughout her life, Estelle was deeply interested and involved in theater, dance, literature, and poetry. As a young adult, Estelle worked with her eldest sister, who operated a studio that trained young dancers, many of whom performed with the Rockettes in Radio City Music Hall.

Estelle's undergraduate years at Brooklyn College were filled with formative experiences as she began her immersion in theater and undertook many leading roles. She also met her husband, Paul Aden, there, and they eventually had two daughters, Vicki and Amy. Later, Estelle returned to school and earned her Masters degree in drama at Adelphi University. She performed in Off-Broadway and television roles, and she became an Adjunct Professor of Speech and Drama at Hofstra University, where she taught for many years until her retirement at age 78.

Many of her former students from Hofstra retain vivid recollections of her and have given evocative accounts of the impact she had on their lives, which you can access at: <https://www.williamsthomASFuneral-home.com/obituaries/Estelle-Aden/>.

As one of her former students said: “Everything I have ever done on any stage and a great deal of what I have accomplished as a public high school teacher traces back directly to Estelle Aden...I showed very little initial promise and she absolutely REFUSED to give up on me! She spent time after class with me almost every day in one-on-one instruction (for which she received no additional compensation) and became giddy, eyes twinkling with delight, when I made even the most minute



Estelle with her co-star Frank J. Edmondson in the 2003 production of *Driving Miss Daisy* at the Gainesville Community Playhouse.



## May Her Memory Be a Blessing



Estelle's love of her Jewish heritage as reflected in her home during the holiday of Hanukkah.

progress... Her teaching has been reflected in my own work with every student I have ever had. Even as I grieve her passing, I celebrate her spirit, dedication, and passion for teaching."

Following her retirement, Estelle moved to Gainesville in 2003 to be closer to her daughter, Vicki Santello who lives here. Anyone who might have anticipated a quiet retirement for her would soon be disabused of that expectation. Instead, Estelle energetically continued her involvement in theater and teaching well into her 90s. Among other theatrical roles, she played the title character in "Driving Miss Daisy" at the Gainesville Community Playhouse in 2003 for which she won the Golden Apple for her portrayal.

Estelle also began teaching at Oak Hammock and the Village in Gainesville. Estelle taught over 70 courses in her tenure at the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) at Oak Hammock, probably teaching more courses over the years than any other volunteer instructor. She also sat on the Cultural Committee for several years. She gave a course on plays every Spring semester, choosing a different theme each year, and each Fall she gave a one-day seminar on a selected Shakespeare play. She also jointly coordinated a popular class called "Monday Morning at the Movies," which ran for eight years. In addition, she regularly gave a range of courses on short stories, poetry, and other literary works and genres. In her "spare time" Estelle was also a regular presenter at Hadassah's Rosh Hodesh group, even talking, among other topics, about Lincoln and the Jews.

Estelle was actively involved in community and national organizations. She joined the Board of her condominium association at Gaineswood, where she both became the Social Director and wrote the community newsletter for seven years. In addition, she became active in the local chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and eventually served as chapter president of this national organization.

Together with others throughout our community, we all painfully miss Estelle, but we are grateful and honored by the years that we were able to enjoy her presence and her friendship.



Estelle with Jordan Dern at the 2012 Community Holocaust Remembrance.



Estelle opened her home and her heart to family and friends during the Passover holiday in celebration of love for Jewish culture.

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## 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](mailto: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:***

Maria Cohn Bechtel,  
Wife of Gordon Granquist Bechtel,  
Mother of Timothy Granquist Bechtel,  
Bethany Suzanne Bechtel and Stuart Thomas,  
Grandmother of Nuriya Bechtel, Rhea Thomas,  
and Aryil Bechtel.

Shlomit Harel,  
Mother of Annat and Adam Falchook,  
Sister of Yossi and Andrea Chodin.

Rachel Lamus

***May their loved ones find solace in their memory.***



Mazel tov to Ilene Silverman Budd for receiving the City of Gainesville's Lennie Kesl Lifetime Arts Award! The Lennie Kesl Lifetime Arts Award is presented to an individual who has made significant and sustained contributions to the arts over a number of years.

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# Gainesville Congregations & Organizations

## **B'nai Israel Community Day School (DS)**

Debby Kinman-Ford, Director

[www.bnaiisraelcds.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.bnaigainesville.com)

3830 NW 16th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32605

352.376.1508

## **Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah (HAD)**

Meredith Bacharach, President

[mwbacharach@gmail.com](mailto:mwbacharach@gmail.com)

352.256.7631.0

## **Hillel at UF (HLL)**

Rabbi Jonah Zinn

[www.ufhillel.org](http://www.ufhillel.org)

2020 W University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32603

352.372.2900

## **Interfaith Encounter Association (IEA)**

[www.interfaith-encounter.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.jewishgator.com)

2021 NW 5th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32603

352.336.5877

## **Temple Shir Shalom (TSS)**

Rabbi Michael Joseph

Ross Van Boven, Director of Religious School

Ann Eisenstadt, Office Manager

[www.shirshalom.net](http://www.shirshalom.net)

3855 NW 8th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32605

352.371.6399



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7135 NW 11th Place, Suite A

Gainesville, FL 32605

352-331-0090

[www.gainesville-entandallergy.com](http://www.gainesville-entandallergy.com)

## **Helping Hands Clinic Dinner Has Been Canceled Until Further Notice**

Thank you to all of our dedicated community volunteers who have supported this project every month. Due to concerns over the spread of covid-19 Helping Hands Clinic has implemented steps to protect their patients, staff, and volunteers which include canceling weekly clinic dinners until further notice.



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## Ocala & Other Congregations & Organizations

### Beverly Hills Chapter of Hadassah (BHCH)

Miriam Fagan  
352.746.0005

### 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)

Elaine Morrison  
www.bethisraelocala.org  
4511 SW 48th St. Ocala, FL 34474  
352.236.0701

### 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

### Temple Shalom of Central Florida (TSCF)

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## Save These Dates

WHEN	JCNCF Programs & Events	WHERE
Thursday, April 9 - Friday, April 10	Passover 1, 2	JCNCF Office Closed
Wednesday, April 15 - Thursday April 16	Passover 7, 8	JCNCF Office Closed
Sunday, April 19, Time TBA	Yom HaShoah, Virtual Community Holocaust Remembrance Program	Online!
Sunday, April 26 at 3 pm	Celebrating Israel A Concert with Rami Feinstein	Facebook