



The Chronicle

The Community Newspaper of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida

Issue #5, January 2019

Tevet - Shevat 5779

JCNCF to Host Beit Ruth Weekend February 1 - 3

By Elissa Einhorn, Development & Communications Manager, Beit Ruth

Ruth. Outsider. Devoted daughter-in-law. Jew by choice. Unlikely Jewish matriarch.

This, in a nutshell, is the biblical story of Ruth. But her story doesn't end there. As anyone who studies Torah would say, the ancient stories that are retold century after century, week after week, and that define the journeys and the values of the Jewish people, are as relevant today and live on in our modern world, as we search for greater meaning and purpose.

Nothing could be a truer example of this concept than the parallels between biblical Ruth and girls like Sarah, Rachel, Shira, Joanna, Miri, or Hannah, who live at The Beit Ruth Educational and Therapeutic Village in Israel, named, very specifically, in Ruth's honor.

To begin with, the story of Ruth is set during the time of Judges, a dark time in Israel's history because it seemed as if the people had abandoned G-d. The Book of Ruth even opens with the words "In the days that the judges judged...", It is during this era that widows fall upon hard times, in this case, a famine.

Although a euphemism, Beit Ruth girls, as young as 13 years old, also have fallen on hard times as a result of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, often perpetrated by family members. They could be easily forgotten. In fact, many are.

In Israel, the needs of an estimated 30,000 girls who have been victims of neglect and abuse, slip through the cracks. Why? Decades of experience and expert anecdotal evidence show that abused girls are significantly less visible because they are less likely to raise red flags than boys. While boys act out as a response to their abuse – sinking into violence, aggression, and destruction of their surroundings – girls act in, often descending into self-destructive behavior, including self-harm, anxiety and depression, self-medication, and other risky actions, including suicide. They become invisible, not only to others, but to themselves; many end up on the streets and fall prey to further victimization.

So, just as Naomi was forced to leave her home in Canaan to escape the dangerous conditions caused by the famine, Beit Ruth girls are forced by the Israeli courts to leave their homes to escape the danger of continued abuse.

Like Ruth, a Moabite woman who eventually loses her husband, her provider, and her home, girls arrive to Beit Ruth as outsiders, oftentimes with only the clothes on their backs.

They are girls with nowhere else to go. However, even in the darkness described during the time of Judges, G-d was at work, bringing light and hope in the most unexpected places – for these girls, that place is Beit Ruth.

Continued on pages 8 - 9



Tikkun Olam with Linda and Steve Bobroff



Linda and Steve with their son Ben in Jerusalem.

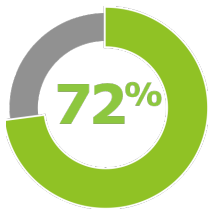
By Dawn Burgess Krop
Past President, JCNCF

What happens when a woman from Brooklyn meets a guy who was born and raised in Gainesville at a bake sale? Answer: They get married! When Linda was a newcomer to Gainesville, her co-worker happened to live next door to Bubbe Hattye, Steve's grandmother. The co-worker became the *shadchanit* (matchmaker) and plans were made for Linda and Steve to meet at a bake sale

at the Thomas Center. The rest is history.

Steve and Linda have been married for 32 years and their presence in local Jewish life has been profound. Through synagogue membership, serving on boards, and extensive volunteer work, Steve and Linda have enriched our community for decades. They have one son, Ben, and Ashley is their beloved daughter-in-law. Steve and Linda now enjoy two granddaughters, Rachel and Sarah.

Continued on page 4



Together we can do extraordinary things!

JCNCF's Annual Campaign goal for 2018/2019 is \$180,000, and so far we have raised over \$129,000. 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.

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____
 Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Signature _____ Pledged \$ _____ Enclosed \$ _____

JCNCF Mission Statement

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

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.

The Chronicle

is published 10 times per year by the Jewish Council of North Central Florida, Inc.
 PO Box 357936
 Gainesville, FL 32635-7936
 office: 352.371.3846
www.JCNCF.org - chronicle@jcnf.org

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.

The entire contents of *The Chronicle* are copyright © 2018 by the Jewish Council of North Central Florida.

The Board & Staff of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida

Board Officers

- Vice President:** Rosalie Bandyopadhyay
- Past President:** Dawn Burgess-Krop
- Treasurer:** Scott Tomar
- Secretary:** Ido Oren
- Campaign Chair:** Steven Slutsky



President & CEO
 Virginia Brissette Hirshik

Assistant Director
 William Alford

Board Members

- Steve Bobroff Larry Hartfield
- Stuart Cohn Jeff Helicher
- Harvey Goldstein Joanne Hirschtritt Licht
- Abe Goldman Sharon Hirshik
- Richard Howard Michelle Jensen
- Daniel Sokol Ken Wald
- Benny Susi Debby Kinman-Ford

JCNCF and Hadassah Chanukah Happy Hour Was a Big Hit!



Thank you to all who made this event possible!
Leonardo's 706, Mark Newman, Steven and Sandy Solomon
Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah, Merdith Bacharach and Janee Dodds
The Klezmer Katz



Thank you to all who donated to the raffle and silent auction!
Monica Albert of Mo's Garage Salon
Linda Blondheim
Diane Brody
Suzy Colvin Rothstein of Kitchen Stitches –Etsy
Ben Guzik of Uppercrust
Molly Kempson of Spotty Boy Press
Lilli Kline of Urban Threads
Jack Kugelmass
Hector Puig of Hector Framing and Gallery
Irene Salley
Ilene Silverman Budd of Ilene's Gator Store

Active Shooter Response Training with Gainesville Police Department

Sunday, January 27 at 1 pm
The Community Room at LifeSouth, 4039 W Newberry Rd

The class will discuss active shooter scenarios and the practice of Run, Hide, Fight. Officer Justin Torres will also talk about workplace violence and how to possibly prevent a situation from happening, and cover how to build an emergency action plan. For more information, and to RSVP, please contact the JCNCF office at 352.371.3843, or office@jcnf.org

ALICE Active Shooter 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. JCNCF is offering this 45 minute online course for free on a space available basis to anyone in the Jewish community who is interested. To enroll, please contact the Jewish Council at 352.371.3846, or office@jcnf.org.

Tikkun Olam with Linda and Steve Bobroff

Continued from page 1

Linda Benjamin came to Gainesville in 1985, having earned her Ph.D. in Nutrition from Rutgers University. She worked for IFAS as an Extension Nutrition Specialist and became a professor. After years of teaching elementary school, Linda embarked on the daunting challenge of entering a new field in Nutrition. Her academic and consulting career culminated at the end of 2018 in her retirement from University of Florida.

Steve grew up in Gainesville and graduated from Gainesville High School, going on to earn a degree in Design at the UF School of Architecture. He has worked as a home builder throughout his career.

Linda and Steve's family origins resonate the American story within the Diaspora. Linda's parents met and fell in love at Camp Tamiment in the Poconos in 1941. Her mother was from Brooklyn and her father from Pittsburgh. They married the seventh time they saw each other. While originally planning to wed in January, the growing war and the attack on Pearl Harbor prompted them to marry in December. They settled in Brooklyn and retired in south Florida. Linda has one brother, Joel, who now also lives in Coconut Creek, Florida.

Steve's parents were a Gainesville institution. His mother, Gertrude Bobroff, was a stalwart of B'nai Israel, and had the reputation of being first feared, then loved. No child grew up at B'nai without being admonished at least once by Gertrude to not run in the shul. On the other hand, no stranger ever entered B'nai without being welcomed and greeted by Gertrude. His father started out as a shoe repairman and owner of an "old" downtown Gainesville business institution, Bob's Shoes. The history of B'nai Israel's progression of synagogues and the development of the cemetery all were facilitated by Steve's family. Steve lost his older brother, Larry, and has a younger sister, Jeannie, who has also earned a reputation for her service (and humor!).

Linda's paternal family traces from Germany and Amsterdam while her mother came from the Ukraine region. They came in through Ellis Island and remained in Brooklyn until they fulfilled the Jewish requirement to retire in Florida. Steve's mother's family left Germany in 1937 and lost many family members who were unable to emigrate in time to escape the Holocaust. Soon after arriving in New York, they joined family in Florida and soon settled in Jacksonville. The Meyerhoffs were well known kosher caterers in Jacksonville. His uncle, Eric Meyerhoff, is still an architect in Savannah, and with his firm (Gunn, Meyerhoff Shay), developed the entire Savannah riverfront complex.

Steve has continued the family tradition of service. He was president of Temple Shir Shalom, and has served on the TSS board, the Hillel board, and is currently serving another term on the B'nai Israel board. Steve has served on Jewish federation boards since United Jewish Appeal evolved through a series of iterations to the current Jewish Council of North Central Florida (JCNCF). He has served as president and held virtually every position on the executive board. Steve is regularly performing acts of service unknown to many, as exemplified by mowing the field behind B'nai Israel and performing or advising on inevitable building repairs. Because of his history in Gainesville, he is invaluable as a greeter for High Holy Days. If he doesn't know you, you must be new in town. When JCNCF is holding an event, Steve can often be found transporting tables and chairs while Linda helps with food and set-up.



Steve Bobroff with Steve Kraft working at a Habitat for Humanity build on Mitzvah Day.

Linda has served on the B'nai Israel board, the former Day School board, and the Maimonides board. She also assists with social action events and Lev Tov at St. Francis House. Linda volunteers with Catering Corps and offers her expertise in food safety and nutrition. She has led teams on Mitzvah Day, and never hesitates to volunteer whenever her schedule permits.

Steve and Linda's latest role is that of "Nana" and "Papa" to Rachel Gabriella (age 2 ½) and Sarah Rebecca (age 14 months). One rarely sees Linda anymore without Rachel or Sarah in her arms and a broad smile on her face. Steve speaks glowingly of how fortunate they are to have Ben and Ashley nearby and the opportunity to see the granddaughters often. As hobbies, Linda loves to read, cook, and play with her granddaughters. Steve loves to get away on the back roads on his motorcycle and has made trips to North Carolina, enjoying nature with cycle buddies.

Linda and Steve embody community commitment. They are ambassadors for performing tikkun olam and living a Jewish life. Probably the best thing that can be said of a person applies to Steve and Linda – they are there when you need them. That constancy provides comfort and solace. JCNCF is grateful for the Jewish and greater commitment!



From left: Ben Bobroff holding Rachel, Ashley Bobroff, Linda Bobroff holding Sarah, and Steve Bobroff.

Israel In Brief: News and Updates

By Ralph Lowenstein

November Election Votes Of Special Interest to Jews

Democrat Jared Polis will be the first Jewish and first gay governor of Colorado. J. B. Pritzker, a Jewish Democrat, will be the next governor of Illinois. Two Jewish military veterans won upset Democratic victories in House races: Max Rose in New York, and Elaine Luria in Virginia. In Michigan, Rashida Tlaib, a Palestinian-American, won a House seat. She favors a one-state solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict, and has opposed U.S. aid to Israel.

Michigan Democrat Elissa Slotkin, who was raised on a farm and worked for the CIA, won a seat that had been considered a lock for Republicans. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, 29, New York, will be the youngest woman ever elected to the House. She recently announced that she is of Sephardic Jewish ancestry, but does not practice Judaism. Her comments have been strongly anti-Israel.

In Florida, Republican Ron DeSantis narrowly beat Democrat Andrew Gillum for the governorship. DeSantis, non-Jewish and a close ally of Trump, was a leading voice urging the President to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. In Florida, voters passed a ballot initiative to restore voting rights to 1.5 million former felons, which could work to Democrats' advantage in future elections. Jewish groups led the charge to pass the initiative. (*Jewish Telegraphic Agency*)

Tunnels Discovered From Lebanon to Israel

Within the last few months, Israel has

In photo at right, JCNCF CEO, Virginia Brissette Hirshik and B'nai Israel Community Day School Director, Debby Kinman-Ford (center of group) pose with a group visiting the Western Wall, the most visited tourist attraction in Israel.

discovered three major tunnels being dug by Hezbollah from Lebanon to Israel. Israel has placed explosives in all three tunnels. This building of cross-border tunnels has been condemned by both the United States and Russia. The tunnels are believed by Israel to have been built under the supervision of Iran.

The discovered tunnels were near the Israeli city of Metula, close to the Golan Heights.

One tunnel apparently had its entrance in the Lebanese village of Kela. None of the tunnels located had been completed, nor were they in operating condition. Israeli authorities believed Hezbollah is planning to build 10 attack tunnels. One of the tunnels discovered runs 130 feet into Israeli territory. Hezbollah is believed by Israel to be storing 120,000 missiles and rockets, many of them in houses and apartments in populated areas of Lebanon. (*Jerusalem Post and New York Times*)

US Company Buys Israeli Firm for \$140 Million

The U.S. company Mueller Water Products has bought the Israeli company Krausz for \$140 million. Krausz produces innovative and proprietary pipe couplings, grips and clamps for the water and wastewater industries. (*Globes*)



October Record Month For Israeli Tourism

Some 486,000 tourists visited Israel in October, breaking all records for October tourism to Israel. Compared to October 2017, 65% more Hungarians and 50% more Italians visited Israel, and 40% more visitors from Poland, the Netherlands and Romania. (*Jerusalem Post*)

Shunned Palestinian Buried in Jewish Cemetery

Jerusalem's Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Aryeh Stern has approved the burial of a Muslim man inside a Jewish cemetery after Muslim cemeteries refused to bury him over suspicions he sold property to Jews. The man had been killed in a car accident two weeks before. Rabbi Stern explained: "Since the Muslims themselves are unwilling to bury him, we must do something and right this wrong done to a man disgraced simply for his willingness to sell land to Jews." (*Ynet News*)



**FREEMAN
REALTY, INC.**

Carolyn R. Freeman
Licensed Real Estate Broker Associate
Residential • Commercial • Investment

**Making Your Real Estate Dreams
Become A Reality**

Call Me Today: 352-538-0100
My Email: Carolyn@FreemanRealtyInc.com
Visit Me at: FreemanRealtyInc.com



**PROTECTING FAMILIES &
BUSINESSES SINCE 1975**



352-376-1499
FL LIC#EF0000424

Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebrated in Ocala

By Elaine Morrison
Congregation Beth Israel

The wide table of God was very much in evidence Saturday, November 17, when congregants of the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faiths gathered together at The First Congregational United Church of Christ in Ocala, to celebrate an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and Meal.

The spiritual heads of the religious organizations represented and explained the philosophies of their faiths, in words and music. The Islamic call to prayer on video started the proceedings and then the more than 200 guests heard messages from Dr. Harold W. McSwain, Rabbi Ze'ev Harari, Imam Zafer Sabawi, Rabbi Karen Allen and Reverend Sue Corley. The unifying truth of all the faiths, thankfulness, respect, sharing, and being humble to God was repeated in each clergy's remarks.

Scattered throughout the service were responsive readings, beautiful solo vocals by Dr. Cory Alexander, Mohammed Murad, Steven Vargas, clarinetist, Jennifer Foster and our own Rabbi Allen and 'the three Judy group': Judi Siegal, Judy Hague and Judy Lanke. Rabbi Allen had the audience singing, clapping, and dancing in the aisles with her presentation of some Chanukah folk songs.

The exquisite voices of the Choirs of the First Congregational UCC Chancel Choir and the Central Florida Master Choir, with Dr. Cory Alexander conducting, was a special treat for our Beth Israel congregation as they lifted their voices singing Oseh Shalom.



Rabbi Allen invited the audience to sign a letter she was sending to the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh to show support to that bereaved community as they try to heal from the atrocity they recently suffered. A moving moment then took place, as all the spiritual leaders came up to the altar to light eleven candles, one for each of the deceased.

At the conclusion of the service, everyone walked to the Church's Enrichment Center, where upon arrival at the lobby a presentation board was set up with information about the Jewish holiday of sukkot, the harvest festival of the Jewish people. A mini succah was displayed as well. Tables and chairs were set up in the main room awaiting the arrival of the attendees who entered and were delighted to feast on the enormous amounts of various foods, prepared and brought by the congregants. This was truly the Thanksgiving Feast written about and described throughout the centuries.

Our gratitude goes to the Jewish Council of North Central Florida whose grants brought us a deputy for security for this event as well as beverages, disposables and decorations.

Everyone agreed this could and should be an annual event as it is so important for us to keep feeling thankful, in spite of all the chaos of the world we are presently living in.

Ocala's Temple B'nai Darom Dedicates New Sanctuary

By Shelly Lebowitz, President and Ed Basan, Treasurer
Temple B'nai Darom

On a rainy and joyful Sunday afternoon to a standing room only audience, Temple B'nai Darom dedicated its new building to Arthur and Mary Jane Lenchner whose generous bequest enabled Temple B'nai Darom's dream to become a reality. The move to 7465 SW 38th Street in Ocala, was made due to the expanding Jewish population west of Highway 75, in the southwest 200 corridor of Marion County.

The dedication celebration was led by Rabbi Harold Jaye, who has been Temple B'nai Darom's spiritual leader for over 30 years. Rabbi Jaye was accompanied on the keyboard by Tambyr Green as the Scrolls were carried to the Bimah by Dr. Martin Hoffert and Ira Miller and placed in the Ark.

Rabbi Jaye (shown in photo at right) led a short service of remembrance and appreciation of the path that led the congregation to their newly constructed home, followed by comments from Temple President, Bob Levenson, Shelly Lebowitz who will assume the presidency in January and long-time member Ira Miller whose real estate and construction background guided the Temple through the entire process as project manager. Ocala Mayor Kent Guinn honored the Temple with his presence and spoke of his Jewish father-in-law, who came to the United States as a boy from Germany.

The audience was reminded of the history of Temple B'nai Darom, the first Jewish Temple in Marion County, from its roots in the late 1800's as the United Hebrews of Ocala, located on Northeast Second Street, in downtown Ocala, moving in the 1950's to Banyan Course in the Silver Springs Shores area, and now to the dedication on Sunday, December 9, 2018 of Temple B'nai Darom's new building on SW 38th Street. Although it is no longer a synagogue, that original building still stands on NE 2nd Street as a reminder of Ocala's Jewish history.

The program culminated with the lighting of the Hanukkah candles by Laura Jaye, wife of Rabbi Jaye, followed by a reception catered by the students in the Culinary Arts & Hospitality program at Marion Technical College, the highlight of which were cupcakes in a Star of David design.

Temple B'nai Darom looks forward to continuing its history of being part of the Marion County Jewish community.



Beit Ruth: Tikkun Olam in Action

Continued from page 1



Ruth Finds a New Home

When the famine is over and it is safe to return to Canaan, Ruth's mother-in-law, Naomi, who also has suffered the loss of her husband and two sons, one of whom was Ruth's husband, selflessly implores Ruth to go back to Canaan for a better life. Ruth does not do as her mother-in-law asked. Instead, she steps into the role of daughter to Naomi, caring for her even though there is nothing in it for her.

The same is true for the Beit Ruth staff – social workers, house coordinators, program managers, teachers, and therapy specialists – who care for their girls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Ruth essentially tells Naomi, "I have nothing. No husband. I can't have babies. I am basically useless." Her oft-quoted more famous words to Naomi are, "Wherever you go, I will go. Your people shall be my people and your G-d, my G-d." This is interpreted as Ruth's conversion moment. She is no longer a Moabite; she is now a Jew.

Evidence of storytelling with a patriarchal focus abounds in the Torah. Women are at the mercy of men for property or inheritance. Part of Beit Ruth's uniqueness lies in programs that are specifically designed with a female gender lens to address the unique challenges facing at-risk girls, including an exclusively all-female staff. The need for this distinction is exacerbated by exhausted state-run facilities that have no financial means to expand services for additional girls and little or no ability to enact creative, therapeutic, and educational programs specifically targeted to individual needs. At Beit Ruth, girls don't find an institution – they find a surrogate home, parental qualities, and a healthy family-like environment, a place where they can become whole again.

Meet Boaz

Ruth begins to work in the fields, labor meant for poor people. She is a gleaner, picking up leftovers, or what falls to the ground. The field is owned by Boaz, a close relative of Naomi's husband. The tradition of this time was for a widow to marry the closest relative of the deceased man in her life, known as a "levirate" marriage.

Naomi instructs Ruth to visit Boaz during the night, telling her, "You will know what to do." Ruth does as she is told, but nothing happens between her and Boaz. Time passes and Naomi, once again, tells her daughter-in-law that it is time to see Boaz. Ruth, once again, does as she is told. Her request to Boaz to "spread the corner of your garment over me" has several interpretations related to Ruth's desire to be part of a community, just like the girls at Beit Ruth who desire to belong – to return to their own communities, or to university, national service, or the army with an education, life skills, and optimism.

After Ruth spends the night at Boaz's feet, he sends her home before morning, while it is still dark so no one will be able to see her and know that she was with him all night. He sends her off with food because of his generosity. His intention is for her to get out of the field before it's light enough for anyone to recognize her.

Just as Ruth committed her life to Naomi, Ruth tells Boaz, "You are my redeemer." He recognizes her innate kindness and her courage and does become her "kinship redeemer." The same can be said for Beit Ruth. Girls who, at their core, are kind and brave and find a healing and caring environment, an education, a mentor, friends – a kinship and belonging.



The Legacy of the Three Ruths and Beit Ruth

**YOU ARE INVITED TO
CELEBRATE & SUPPORT BEIT RUTH**
**The Legacy of the Three Ruths
and Beit Ruth:
Tikkun Olam in Action**

**A Talk with Barbara Oberlander,
Ph.D. and Danielle Burenstein,
Executive Director of Beit Ruth**

**Friday, February 1 at 10 am
Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Center of
Ocala, The Villages & Tri County**

**Sunday, February 3 at 10:30 am
The Windsor of Gainesville**

**Sunday, February 3 at 4 pm
Master the Possibilities - Adult Education
Center at On Top of the World of Ocala**

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

*The Jewish Council is proud to present **The Legacy of the Three Ruths and Beit Ruth**. Many thanks to our three host venues, sponsors and host committee.*

Barbara Oberlander, Ph.D., will speak about Jewish heroes, Ruth Gruber and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Beit Ruth Executive Director, Danielle Burenstein, will speak about biblical Ruth, connecting her story to the mission of the Beit Ruth Educational and Therapeutic Village.

Ruth Gruber was a pioneering photo journalist who became interested in the plight of Jewish refugees during World War II. She spent the next 60 years advocating on their behalf, from documenting the tragedy of the ship, the Exodus, to the daring rescue of Ethiopian Jews and their emigration to Israel.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg is also a pioneer. As a lawyer, she essentially created the field of gender discrimination under the 14th Amendment for consideration by the Supreme Court. Her early cases — and her work later as a Supreme Court Justice herself — broke down barriers for women (and men).

Biblical Ruth is the devoted daughter-in-law to the widowed Naomi. An unlikely matriarch in Jewish history and the great-grandmother to King David, Ruth's actions were the inspiration behind the name and mission of Beit Ruth. Her selfless spirit of caring lives on for the girls who call the Village home.

The lives of these remarkable trailblazers reflect the Jewish spirit of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world and pursuing justice.

Please note that reservations are required for these talks. For more information, and to RSVP, please contact the Jewish Council by Friday, January 25.

Continued from page 8 What girls also find is hope and the audacity to dream. Ruth, in fact, became the unlikely great-grandmother to Israel's King David. And like Ruth, whose name means "companion, friend, and vision of beauty," Beit Ruth girls discover the beauty in themselves and the world around them.

ABOUT BEIT RUTH

Beit Ruth works to heal and transform the lives of girls who have been abused and neglected by providing a safe, structured and loving home environment. At Beit Ruth, girls receive an intensive high school education that is specifically designed to meet each girl's individual abilities. Alongside regular counselling and therapy with our therapeutic staff, the girls participate in a range of enrichment programs from music to art, sports to sailing, baking to horticulture, and much more. In between their therapy, counseling, and studying, the girls can be found cooking together, doing chores, helping each other with homework, seeking one-on-one tutoring, or talking and laughing on their house patios. For more information, contact Executive Director Danielle Burenstein at danielleb@beitruth.com or 516-822-0074.

HERE'S WHAT JUST ONE YEAR AT THE BEIT RUTH VILLAGE PROVIDES:

1,380
High School
Hours

52
Shabbats

150
Taglit Birthright
Visits

48,105
Meals

576
Art & Music Enrichment-
Therapy Classes

9
Educational Field
Trips in Israel

2,160
Individual
Therapeutic Sessions

5,040
Hours of
Volunteers

16,435
Safe & Warm
Nights' Sleep

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE !

B'nai Israel Day School is Shaping the Jewish Future

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

Building a community, by teaching the next generation to be kind and good and take care of one another is the focus of the B'nai Israel Community Day School. One of the reasons the school is so proud of its growth over the last year has been the opportunity to work with more children and their families. November and December are especially busy months for the Day School.

As new families arrive at the school and get settled in, the school provides numerous ways the families can connect. This past November and December, the school hosted the annual Fall Festival, a thanksgiving program and a Hanukkah party. Each program is designed to bring families together and expand their home communities. Additionally, the school works with the larger Gainesville community to nurture it as well. In November and December, the day school baked four birthday cakes for children at Arbor House, the local family homeless shelter, and Ronald McDonald House. It also worked with B'nai Israel to adopt eleven children from the Partnership for Strong Families Make A Wish program. Each class adopted a child, as well as, the staff of the school.

Finally, continuing the staff commitment to our community, the Day School staff volunteered to do a program in November for Peaceful Paths and in December for Meridian's MIST program. They are also making dinner for families at the Ronald McDonald House for New Year's. The Day School's commitment toward building community reaches to every part of our school from our children to our families to our staff. We are proud to be working to make our community a better place!



Registration for the 2019/20 school year begins the end of January. We are excited to be offering slots for infants through FIRST GRADE!! For more information, please call 352.376.1508 ext. 110 or email dayschool@bnaiisraelcde.org.



**Moody • Salzman
Lash • Locigno**
Attorneys & Counselors at Law
Est. 1972

Personal Injury • Workers Compensation • Real Estate
Auto Accidents • Business Law • Construction Law

www.MoodySalzman.com
2770 N.W. 43rd Street, Suite A Gainesville, FL 32606

Save the Date

Jewish Cultural Festival
Sunday, March 17, 11 am to 2 pm
Congregation B'nai Israel

*For questions, please contact Caroline
at (352) 376-1508 ext. 108 or
caroline@bnaigainesville.com.*



ROSLYN LEVY
GRI - CRS

BROKER, SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT
Selling Real Estate in Gainesville since 1979

(352) 870-9100
rlevy@mmparrish.com

COLDWELL BANKER
M.M. PARRISH REALTORS®
7515 W University Ave.
Suite 201
Gainesville, FL 32607



Jeremy S. Melker, MD
Garrett Hauptman, MD
Mary Anne Pinner, AuD
Lynn Davis, AuD

**GAINESVILLE
ENT & ALLERGY
ASSOCIATES**

7135 NW 11th Place, Suite A
Gainesville, FL 32605
352-331-0090
www.gainesville-entandallergy.com

Temple Shir Shalom's New Social Justice Program

**By Charles Egan,
Temple Shir Shalom Key Coordinator**

Temple Shir Shalom began a new social justice program this past spring by becoming a support congregation for Family Promise of Gainesville. This organization is the Alachua county chapter of the national faith-based Family Promise organization whose mission is to "rehome" families with small children. Temple Shir Shalom is partnered with a host congregation, the Universalist Unitarian Fellowship Group of Gainesville (UUFG), to assist Family Promise by providing temporary shelter and meals to these families on their assigned week.

Family Promise is one of only two shelters in Alachua County that caters to families with children. Families have dinner, spend the night and eat breakfast at local churches or synagogues for one week at a time on a rotating schedule. Families must have a child under the age of 18 and all adults must agree to background checks and drug testing. They must also seek to find employment and housing. Those that have jobs must save 30% of their income to be used for future housing.

Family Promise hosts a Day Center that serves as a home base while adults look for jobs and apply for services. The Day Center also provides laundry facilities, showers, telephones, a mailing address, computer facilities, and a children's playroom. A skilled case manager assesses each family upon entrance into the program, determining those factors that contributed to the family homelessness. The Case Manager links families with services and resources and helps them find affordable housing. Families who do not have their own vehicle are transported to work, school, or the Day Center each morning, then back to the congregation facility each evening.

During its assigned week, UUFG converts its religious study classrooms to bedrooms for up to four families. They also provide shower facilities, breakfast and dinner. Volunteers from Temple Shir Shalom have helped in two ways. Several congregants have volunteered as Overnight Hosts, ensuring that UUFG has at least two volunteers for each night who can assist guests if any issues arise overnight. Others have volunteered as Dinner Hosts, bringing in and serving hot meals when the guest arrive at the church each evening. Our volunteers were able to help three weeks this year, allowing UUFG to maintain its ability to help as a host congregation. We plan to help UUFG next year on its assigned four weeks in 2019.

So far this year, Family Promise has helped 52 families for a total of 205 people. They can use donations of gently used furniture. For those who prefer cash contributions, Family Promise has been able to leverage \$4.16 of in-kind donations for every \$1 of direct donations. For more information about how you can support Family Promise, contact them at 352.378.2030 or by email at GNVFamilyPromise@gmail.com. Thank you to all who volunteered in 2018 and made this new program a success. We look forward to continuing this in 2019.



Family Promise is ending childhood homelessness— one family at a time.



HOUSING STABILITY

<p>SHELTER runs 365 days per year. This 90-day program helps with jobs, childcare, transportation, meals, and housing location.</p>	<p>RAPID RE-HOUSING Deposit and rental assistance program for families with children.</p>
<p>PARTNERS IN HOUSING PROGRAM Affordable housing units owned by Family Promise are used for graduating families.</p>	<p>LIFE-SKILLS CLASSES Budgeting, parenting, housing rights and responsibilities are taught in weekly case meetings and group classes.</p>

GI Jews Screening at The Hippodrome on Thursday, January 31



GI * JEWES

Film screening and talk with
Deborah Dash Moore
 Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 4:30 PM
 Hippodrome Cinema (free and open to the public)



Film screening of *GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II* tells the story of the 550,000 Jewish American men and women who fought in World War II. In their own words, veterans both famous (director Mel Brooks, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger) and unknown share their war experiences: how they fought for their nation and people, struggled with anti-Semitism within their ranks, and emerged transformed.

The screening of the film will be followed by a talk by Deborah Dash Moore, Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor of History at the University of Michigan

For more information, please contact Professor Rachel Gordan, Shorstein Fellow in American Culture, rgordan@ufl.edu or call 352.392.9247

Upcoming Events with the University of Florida

UF Center for Latin American Studies' 68th Annual Conference: *Jews and the Americas*
 Sunday, February 24 - Tuesday, February 26
 University of Florida

This conference is jointly sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies, the Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish Studies and the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida.

Funding is also provided by the U.S. Department of Education and the Bacardi Family Endowment.

- Free - UF students, faculty and staff
- \$50 - Non-UF Florida residents
- \$100 - Non-UF out-of-state residents

Please note, registration fees will increase by \$50 for non-UF Florida and out of state attendees beginning Monday, February 11.

Playing For Peace: A Concert Featuring Mira Awad
 presented by The Center for Jewish Studies,
 Wednesday, February 27 at 7:30 pm
 University Auditorium



Ninth Annual Gainesville Jewish Film Festival
 Sunday, March 17 - Saturday, March 30
 More Details Coming Soon



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:

Ruth Diamond,
Wife of William Diamond, z'l,
Mother of Gil Diamond and Lisa Ryan

Robert James,
Brother of Margaret James

Honora "Honey" Newman,
Mother of Mark Newman

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.

Mazel tov to Wes Melker, (picture at right) who celebrated his bar mitzvah on Friday, December 8. Wes is the son of Amy and Jeremy Melker, and grandson of Rita Jacobson, and Dorothy & Richard Melker.



Mazel Tov to Kevin Johns who was accepted into and will attend Emory University School of Law in the fall of 2019. Kevin will graduate from the University of Florida in May, 2019. Kevin is the son of Helene Johns.

One OF A KIND!
The *Only* Retirement Community
Affiliated with the University of Florida

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE
Since 2004

Oak Hammock
at the University of Florida
Where Living, Learning and Nature Meet.

Oak Hammock has redefined retirement living. From a vibrant, active lifestyle to a focus on lifelong learning ... life here is truly *inspiring*.

5100 S.W. 25th Blvd. • Gainesville, Florida 32608
352-548-1024 • www.OakHammock.org

88174 PRAD JCNCF 092017

ffp
LAW
Fine, Farkash & Parlapano, PA

**When Life Changes,
We're There.**

Fine, Farkash, & Parlapano P.A.

CONTACT US FOR A FREE CASE EVALUATION
Find us online at ffplaw.com or call today - (352) 376-6046

Gainesville Congregations & Organizations

Gainesville

B'nai Israel Community Day School (DS)

Debby Kinman-Ford, Director
www.bnaisraelcds.org
352.376.1508, ext 101

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

Dr. Jack Kugelmass, Director
Sandra James, Office Assistant
web.jst.ufl.edu
PO Box 118020, Gainesville, FL 32611
352.392.9247

Congregation B'nai Israel (CBI)

Rabbi David Kaiman
Jenifer Petrescu, Executive Director
Shauna Sikron, Coordinator of Jewish Learning
Caroline Birdrow, Adult Programming and Administration
www.bnaigainesville.com
3830 NW 16th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32605
352.376.1508

Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah (HAD)

Meredith Bacharach, President
mwbacharach@gmail.com
352.256.7631.0

Interfaith Encounter Association (IEA)

Elinor Robin, President
elinorobin@aol.com
www.interfaith-encounter.org
954.415.5645

Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica (LIB) at the University of Florida

Dr. Rebecca Jefferson, Director
cms.uflib.ufl.edu/Judaica/Index.aspx
George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
352.273.2865

Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ)

Rick Gold
goldrickus@gmail.com
571.337.8018

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

Rabbi Berl & Chanie Goldman, Directors
Rabbi Aharon Chaim & Pessie Notik, Co-Directors
www.jewishgator.com
2021 NW 5th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32603
352.336.5877

Temple Shir Shalom (TSS)

Rabbi Michael Joseph
Ross Van Boven, Director of Religious School
Ann Eisenstadt, Office Manager
www.shirshalom.net
3855 NW 8th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32605
352.371.6399

UF Hillel (HLL)

Rabbi Adam Grossman
www.ufhillel.org
2020 W University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32603
352.372.2900

Community Calendar January 2019

Tuesday, January 1

Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph at TSS, 9:30 am (Repeated Tue, Jan 8, Tue Jan 15, Tue Jan 22 and Tue Jan 29)

Widow's Bereavement Support Group at TSS, 10:30 to 11:30 am (Repeated every Tuesday)

There will be no Torah on Tuesday with Rabbi Kaiman at CBI, 12 pm. It will resume Tue, Jan 8, (Repeated Tue Jan 15, Tue Jan 22 and Tue Jan 29)

Wednesday, January 9

Friendship Circle at CBI, 10:30 am (Repeated Wed Jan 16, Wed Jan 23, and Wed Jan 30)

Friday, January 11

New Member Shabbat at TSS, 7 pm

Sunday, January 13

Hot dog sale fundraiser for religious school at TSS, 12 pm

Coming Soon: Scholarships for Jewish Engagement Opportunities

The Jewish Council is firmly committed to engaging community members in meaningful and educational experiences on an individual, family and group basis. Each month, the Jewish Council offers Chai grants of \$360 each to eligible Jewish organizations in North Central Florida. Through these funds, we have been able to provide Jewish programs for congregations, religious schools and the general community.

We are excited to announce that starting this spring, the Jewish Council will also be offering five scholarships of \$1,000 each for individuals to participate in Jewish educational, spiritual or leadership enrichment opportunities. Look for more information in the e-newsletter and the February edition of *The Chronicle*.

Ocala and Other Congregations & Organizations

Ocala and Other Locations

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)

Rabbi Karen Allen

www.bethisraelocala.org

4511 SW 48th St. Ocala, FL 34474

352.450.2056

Congregation Beth Sholom (CBS)

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)

www.templeshalomcentralfl.org

13563 County Road 101, Oxford, FL 34484

352.748.1800

A New Choice Has Arrived in Gainesville – NOW OPEN



The
Windsor
of Gainesville
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

A Residence of Legend Senior Living™

www.WindsorGainesville.com

Call or Visit Today!
(352) 372-1900

.....
3605 NW 83rd St • Gainesville

Jewish Council of North Central Florida, Inc.
 P.O. Box 357936
 Gainesville, FL 32635

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Gainesville, FL
 Permit #612



Address Service Requested



The Jewish Federations®
 OF NORTH AMERICA

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
 THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

The Network
 of Independent
 Communities

Save These Dates

WHEN	JCNCF Programs & Events	WHERE
Sunday, January 27 at 1 pm	Active Shooter Response Training	Lifesouth on Newberry Road
Friday, February 1 - Sunday, February 3	Beit Ruth Weekend	See page 9 for locations
Sunday, February 10, 3 - 4 pm	PJ Library Story Walk	Temple Shir Shalom
Sunday, February 24, 1 - 2 pm	PJ Our Way Scavenger Hunt	Congregation B'nai Israel
Wednesday, February 27, 7:30 pm	Playing for Peace Concert	University Auditorium
Sunday, March 17 - Saturday, March 30	The Ninth Annual Gainesville Jewish Film Festival	The Hippodrome Cinema