



The Chronicle

The Community Newspaper of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida

Issue #4, December 2018

Kislev - Tevet 5779

Reflections on Pittsburgh

**By Ken Wald, JCNCF Board Member
and Past President**

The atrocity in Pittsburgh on October 27 was too cruel to be imagined.

It happened on the Sabbath, a day meant to renew us with rest and sustenance. It occurred in a synagogue that had chosen "tree of life" for its name. In one of the prayer rooms, congregants were attending a bris, a ceremony in which the community celebrates a new life. One of the first victims, aged 97, had witnessed enough anti-Semitism in her long life only to be gunned down by a madman infected by the same virus that gave birth to the Nazis. She died in the major prayer area of the synagogue which we call a sanctuary.

Each irony fell like a hammer blow on my soul. A day later, when I arrived for a memorial service at Congregation B'nai Israel, my heart was still filled with rage and anger. These dark forces had driven out the normal contemplative mood that overtakes me when I join with friends for prayer and reflection.

As my mind wandered during the service, I happened to think about the phrase "tree of life." Our congregation in Gainesville has its own tree of life, a beautiful, massive carving built into the wall of our social hall. The wooden leaves hold small plaques that congregants have engraved with memories of significant life events.

The leaves donated by my family celebrate the births of our children, noting their progress through each Bat Mitzvah, graduation, wedding, and grandchild. We also honor the teachers who provided them with a firm grounding in Judaism. Many of the surrounding plaques mention important birthdays, memorialize the accomplishments of congregants, and recall other occasions of joy. Thinking about them brought an unexpected smile to my lips.



May their memories be a blessing
Joyce Fienberg, 75, of Oakland;
Richard Gottfried, 65, of Ross;
Rose Mallinger, 97, of Squirrel Hill;
Jerry Rabinowitz, 66, of Edgewood;
Brothers, Cecil Rosenthal, 59,
and David Rosenthal, 54, of Squirrel Hill;
Married couple, Bernice Simon, 84,
and Sylvan Simon, 86, of Wilkinsburg;
Daniel Stein, 71, of Squirrel Hill;
Melvin Wax, 87, of Squirrel Hill;
Irving Younger, 69, of Mount Washington.

Then it occurred to me that the real Tree of Life, the brick and mortar congregation in Pittsburgh, would be rebuilt and cleansed by the very same forces that sustain our own Jewish community. The trunk of their tree will bear permanent scars, no doubt, but in time, those will be covered by fresh growth.

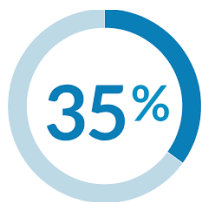
New branches will sprout new leaves that will tell of happy events that bind a community. In Pittsburgh, each new birth, wedding, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, important birthday, or tribute to a revered teacher or congregant

will refresh the canopy, invigorating the tree with an infusion of love, hope and optimism. The pain will recede as new growth rings encase the trunk, strengthening its foundation by shoring up its roots.

Jewish tradition emphasizes the stark difference between death and life. After a funeral, each mourner washes his or her hands when leaving the cemetery and washes them again upon entering a house where death has taken a

loved one. In the synagogue, we acknowledge our ancestors with memorial plaques on the walls surrounding the pews in our sanctuary. On the anniversary of their deaths, a small light bulb is lit to remind us of the joy they brought to our families.

Our congregation's tree of life presides over a different space, one devoted to sharing meals after worship or on other special occasions. Being among a vibrant community comforts those who have come to honor their late ancestors. After significant events like anniversaries, families often sponsor special meals to strengthen the bonds that unite us. Jews cannot forget their tragedies, but the tree of life reminds us that the universe provides us joy and sunshine to offset grief and darkness. So we pray it will be for Pittsburgh's Tree of Life.



Together we can do extraordinary things!

JCNCF's Annual Campaign goal for 2018/2019 is \$180,000, and so far we have raised over \$63,000. That's 35% 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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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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Jewish Council of North Central Florida, Inc.

PO Box 357936
Gainesville, FL 32635-7936
office: 352.371.3846

www.JCNCF.org - chronicle@jcnf.org

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of North Central Florida.

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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JCNCF and Hadassah Team Up to Celebrate Chanukah

A Chanukah Happy Hour

Thursday, December 6
6 to 8 pm

Leonardo's 706

Enjoy delicious hot latkes,
vodka specials, a raffle,
and live music, featuring
The Klezmer Katz

Couvert \$18

**Sponsored by Gainesville
Chapter of Hadassah and
the Jewish Council**

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What's New With PJ Library?

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

PJ Library North Central Florida is expanding in our community yet again! PJ Library is a partnership between the B'nai Israel Community Day School and the Jewish Council of North Central Florida, and is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. PJ Library provides free, age appropriate books and CDs to Jewish families each month.

This year, our local Jewish pre-school, B'nai Israel Community Day School, has been approved to be part of PJ Library Goes to School. Day school staff were trained on how to use PJ Library books in their classrooms and will be provided with another in-service training over the winter.

Last year, PJ Library expanded to add PJ Our Way, a program for children ages 8-11. We have started to add programming to our activities, including our After Party following our PJL Glow Party for Hannukah. We also had special Mitzvah Day activity for PJOW.

PJ LIBRARY HANUKKAH CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, December 9
4-5 pm PJ Library Glow Party
5-6 pm PJ Our Way After Party
at Congregation B'nai Israel

Face painting, freeze dance, glow in the dark tic tac toe, and glow bowling.

Please RSVP to Bekah Ford by December 5
at Bekah812@gmail.com or
352.376.1508 ext 101



PJ Library and PJ Our Way kids participated in Mitzvah Day projects at Cong. B'nai Israel

But wait, there's more! PJ Library is teaming up with the B'nai Israel Community Day School again to create a "Little Free Library," which will be located outside the school entrance and will house Jewish parenting books. See a book you like, take it home and read it and when you're done, return it. It's that easy! The library should be ready by mid-December.

Finally, we have continued to expand our roster of program participants, and are excited to announce that this year, we have 225 children enrolled in PJ Library, and over 30 in PJ Our Way. PJ Library has had such a great impact on our community. We love being able to promote all the wonderful programs happening in our community for families with children

under 11, as well as, offering our own programs. We are proud of how much is now offered in our community for this age group and believe that PJ Library is responsible, in part, for this accomplishment. We encourage you to tell eligible families about it and support this outstanding program!

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Israel In Brief: News and Updates

By Ralph Lowenstein

US Mid-Term Elections Bode Well for Israel

As a result of the November Mid-Term Elections, the leadership of the Democrats remains solidly pro-Israel, including presumptive House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Whip Steny Hoyer.

There will be 28 Jewish members in the House of Representatives and eight in the Senate. The few Holocaust deniers, anti-Semites and white supremacists running for office nationwide lost after their own parties distanced themselves from these candidates. (*Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs*)

Qatar Funds Salaries, Electricity In Gaza with Israeli Approval

Israel, which has recently quietly made diplomatic contacts with Qatar, has approved Qatar's paying the salaries of government employees in Gaza and providing \$100 handouts to 50,000 Gaza families. In addition, Qatar has supplied enough fuel to Gaza to provide the residents with 16 hours a day of electricity for the first time in five years. The improving conditions coincide with stepped-up efforts by Egypt and the UN to broker a last-ing cease-fire between Israel and Hamas.

In the background is the fact that the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, opposes a truce accord between Israel and the two million Arabs living in Gaza, for fear that Hamas will become a separate state. Abbas has not set foot in Gaza for the past 11 years.

(*Wall Street Journal and the Gatestone Institute*)

These young women are in a combat battalion of the Israeli Defense Forces that have a roughly equal number of male and female soldiers. The IDF recently formed the fourth such battalion of such soldiers. The first mixed battalion was created 15 years ago.



Israeli White Rhinoceros Population Is Increasing

Israel's Ramat Gan Safari has recently welcomed a 110-pound baby white rhinoceros. The baby rhino joins 300 (yes, 300) other white rhinoceroses at the safari, the largest such group in the European Endangered Species Program. Ramat Gan is a suburb of Tel Aviv. (*Israel Hayom*)

Israel Has Four Coed Combat Battalions

The Israeli Defense Forces recently added its fourth coed combat battalion. The first coed combat battalion joined the ranks of the IDF 15 years ago. The new unit's current deployment is guarding the Egyptian border from smugglers and terrorist infiltrators. Commander of the battalion is Lt. Colonel Shachar Nachman, a former paratrooper, who praised the effectiveness of the coed units. "I love these units," he said. "The soldiers do really good work and activity every day. The best."

The new unit is made up of roughly

equal numbers of men and women, and can do all the activities of other combat units. All soldiers are qualified in diverse specialties, such as serving in combat as snipers. (*Jerusalem Post*)

Ultrasonic Device Attacks Problem of Head Lice

Pesticide shampoos and fine-tooth combs are the only current treatments for head lice, an annoying and often embarrassing condition throughout the world, especially for school-children. But the Israelis have come up with a solution – a hand-held device that uses ultrasound technology to kill the lice and their eggs in a treatment that takes minutes and is completely safe to use.

The device was invented by an Israeli start-up called ParaSonic. The company says the device is safe for children, and has already been approved for use in the U.S. Its trials show 95% efficiency, and the product will launch in mid-2019. (*Reuters*)



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JCNCF's Tenth Community

On Sunday, November 18, the Gainesville Jewish Community joined volunteers around the world to make this the largest international Mitzvah Day yet! 731 Mitzvah Days were held in 30 countries with 40,000 volunteers! For more project photos, visit JCNCF's Facebook page.

Thank you to all of the coordinators, team leaders, and volunteers!

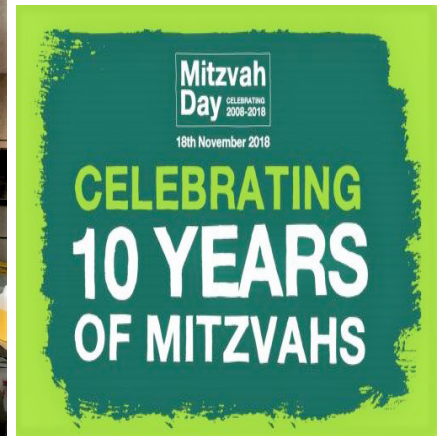


13 volunteers

served **200**
people at GRACE
Marketplace for

just **\$132**

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



10 volunteers
worked for

6 hours to build
a home for a family
through Habitat for
Humanity.



12 volunteers
packaged nearly

500 pounds of
pet food for St. Francis
Pet Care which will
serve over

800 companion
animals.



Mitzvah Day By The Numbers



8 volunteers,
baked **32**
vegetarian casseroles
that were shared
with local partner
charities that serve
Gainesville's most
vulnerable communi-
ty members.



The Storch family, the Egan family and other volunteers, came together to prepare breakfast for families staying at Ronald McDonald House.

This is the **4th** year that the Storch family has led this project. The Egan family participated in a total of **3** Mitzvah Projects this year, making PB & J sandwiches for the hungry and sorting clothing for local charities.

Clothing Sorted for Local Charities:

ARC: **3** bags
Reichert House: **7** bags

GRACE: **13** bags
Helping Hands Clinic: **6** bags

Focus on the Future: **12** bags
PACE: **9** bags
Tacachale: **4** bags

Volunteers also donated supplies that were distributed to the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank, GRACE Marketplace, Matilda's Mentionables, and Family Promise.

These organizations need your support all year long.

Please remember them when you make every day a Mitzvah Day!

**Thanks for giving
your time
on Mitzvah Day**



10th year

6 volunteers

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

North Central Florida Chanukah Schedule 2018

Congregation B'nai Israel

Friday, November 30 at 5 pm
Hanukkah Family Shabbat
Please RSVP to Jenifer at jenifer@bn-aigainesville.com or 352.376.1508 ext. 103 by Friday, November 23rd.

Sunday, December 2 at 4 pm
Synagogue Hanukkah Party
\$18 per adult
\$15 per adult with the donation of one teenage pajama set
\$10 for children 10 years old and younger
Donut-eating Contest, Dreidel-spinning Contest, Menorah Lighting, Latkes, & More!
Please RSVP to Caroline at caroline@bnaigainesville.com or 352.376.1508 ext. 108 by Friday, November 23rd.

Saturday, December 9 at 2 pm
Hanukkah Workshop at Hammer & Stain.
Contact Caroline at caroline@bnai-gainesville.com for more details.

UF Hillel

Wednesday, December 5 at 12 pm
Free Lunch Hanukkah Party

Temple Shir Shalom

Sunday, December 9 at 12 pm
Hanukkah Party,
Co sponsors TSS Religious School and New Sisterhood
Everyone welcome. Fun for all ages. Bring new socks and hats to give to the homeless. Games, music, latkes, crafts, lunch and a silent auction.
\$10 per Person, \$36 per Family, 4 yo and younger free.

Reservations appreciated
352.371.6399

Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student & Community Center

Sunday, December 2 at 1 pm
Chanukah Factory,
Pre-Chanukah Menorah/Dreidel Workshop at The Home Depot, Tower Center, 71017 NW 4th Blvd
RSVP to Rabbi@JewishGator.com or call 352.336.5877

Wednesday, December 5 at 5 pm
Downtown Chanukah Family Festival
Grand Chanukah Celebration
Join in the lighting of a Giant Menorah!
At the downtown Bo Diddley Community Plaza

Thursday, December 9 at 11 am
Lox & Latkes
Chanukah Brunch for Seniors

Chabad House of Ocala and The Villages

Tuesday, December 2 at 5:30 pm
Grand Menorah Lighting in Ocala at Ocala City Square.
Live Music, donuts, latkes, entertainment and more!

Wednesday, December 5 at 5 pm
Join the Chanukah Car Menorah Parade!
Procession starting from the Chabad House.

*Please visit www.ourchabad.org to RSVP for these events.

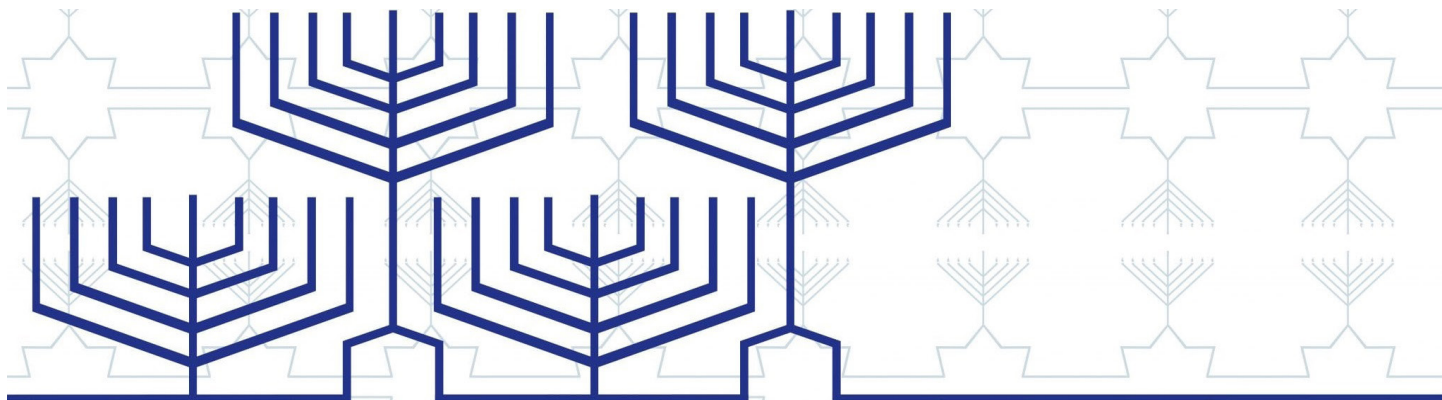
Temple B'nai Darom

Friday, December 7 at 7:30 pm
Shabbat service with Chanukah Celebration and Oneg.

Temple Beth Shalom

Sunday, December 2 at 6 pm
First Candle Lighting and school dinner party.

Friday, December 7 at 7:30 pm
New Member welcome and Chanukah music service.



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:

Ethel Morgenstern,
Wife of Mel Morgenstern, z"l.
Mother of Alan Morgenstern,
Barbara Camadeco, and Nancy Moon.

Sylvia Silberfeld,
Wife of Alfred Silberfeld, z"l.
Mother of Heath Lynn Silberfeld.

Dr. Marvin Simring,
Husband of Francine Simring.
Father of Elyse, James,
June, and Robert Simring.

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.



Mazel tov to Stacey Steinberg on her new position as Director of the Gator TeamChild Juvenile Law Clinic at the University of Florida Levin College of Law!



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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
Kat Llinas, Family and Youth Programming
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

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
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352.371.6399

UF Hillel (HLL)

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

JCNCF to Offer Active Shooter Training with Gainesville Police Department
Sunday, January 27 at 1 pm
Location TBA

To RSVP, please contact the Jewish Council at 352.371.3846 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.

Community Calendar December 2018

Tuesday, December 4

Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph at TSS, 9:30 am (Repeated Tue, Dec 11, and Tue Dec 18)
Torah on Tuesday with Rabbi Kaiman at CBI, 12 pm (Repeated Tue, Dec 11, and Tue Dec 18)

Wednesday, December 5

Friendship Circle at CBI, 10:30 am (Repeated Wed Dec 12, Wed Dec 19, and Wed Dec 26)

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

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Temple Beth Shalom (TBS)

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Save These Dates

WHEN	JCNCF Programs & Events	WHERE
Thursday, December 6 at 6 pm	Chanukah Happy Hour	Leonardo's 706
Sunday, December 9 at 4 pm	PJ Library Chanukah	Congregation B'nai Israel
Sunday, January 27 at 1 pm	Active Shooter Training	TBA
Friday, February 1, Time TBA	Beit Ruth Lunch and Learn	TBA - The Villages
Sunday, February 3, Time TBA	Beit Ruth Brunch	The Windsor
Sunday, March 17 - March 30	The Ninth Annual Gainesville Jewish Film Festival	The Hippodrome Cinema