JCNCF Celebrates Israel with The Honey & the Sting

On Monday, May 13 at 7 pm, the Jewish Council presents The Honey and the Sting: The Incredible Story of the State of Israel Through the Life and Compositions of Naomi Shemer, an interactive musical program by Roy Rimshon at the Harn Museum Auditorium. Admission is $10 per person.

Naomi Shemer was an Israeli singer, songwriter and composer known commonly as the “First Lady of Israeli Song.” Shemer (July 13, 1930; died June 26, 2004) was born on Kvuzaat Kinneret and grew up overlooking the shores of the Jordan River. Many of her songs recreate the landscape that was such a part of her youth and reflect her love of the topography and scenery of Eretz Yisrael.

Shemer’s music linked the ordinary to the festive, the landscapes of Lake Kinneret to the White City of Tel Aviv, her own biography to the history of Israel between war and peace. Shemer’s longing for the landscapes in which she grew up wove itself flawlessly into her ability to listen to new tones and unexpected voices. The connection to childhood gave many of her songs a charm and innocence. At her best she was able to balance all of her loves and write songs that sketched the tension between past and present without attempting to resolve that tension too glibly.

In 1967, Shemer was asked to compose a song for the Israel Song Festival. Though not part of the competition, the three stanzas of “Yerushalayim Shel Zahav” (“Jerusalem of Gold”) became instantly popular. Particularly because the Festival occurred just before the 1967 Six-Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem, the song acquired a national significance that spoke to the country’s longing for Jerusalem and its surrounding areas. Broadcast frequently on the radio and sung by many, it functioned as a second national anthem. Following the war, Shemer composed a fourth stanza to the song, celebrating the liberation of the Old City of Jerusalem and the road to Jericho. “Yerushalayim shel Zahav” was translated into many languages and became an international statement on the reunification of Jerusalem.

For her immense contribution to Israeli music, Shemer was awarded the Israel prize in 1983. She was laid to rest at Kibbutz Kinneret on June 26, 2004, where she was born. In 2005, Shemer was voted the 6th-greatest Israeli of all time in an online poll conducted by an Israeli newspaper. (Source: Jewish Virtual Library)

Tikkun Olam On The Civil Rights Trail

By Dawn Burgess Krop, Past President, JCNCF

Following the Civil Rights Trail through Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia for nine days was a deeply moving experience, and having just returned, I am still processing the tumult of information and emotions. My traveling companion was my eighteen-year-old granddaughter, Sophie, who is passionate about improving race relations and voting rights. Our trip was punctuated with spirited discussions and occasional waves of sorrow for what cruelty and indifference humans can inflict upon fellow humans.

The Deep South states we visited have all constructed civil rights museums, and while some of the content is similar, they varied in presentation and specifics to the local community. In several museums, we were fortunate to hear the oral history from a veteran civil rights activist. We were able to hear from a man who was jailed at 14-years of age in the dreaded Parchman Prison in Mississippi for a peaceful protest and another occasion of hearing the fascinating testimony of an original Freedom Rider. We were fortunate to hear a lecture on hate crimes at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

With reverence, we walked across the Edmund Pettis Bridge, where the beginning of the 54-mile march, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, began from Selma to Montgomery. People were beaten and killed on this march, yet they resolutely and peacefully persisted until they reached their state capitol. Over 3,000 people started this march, walking sometimes twelve miles a day and sleeping in fields at night. Compelled by their struggle and sacrifice, approximately 25,000 people from around the Continued on page 6
JCNCF Mission Statement

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

The Chronicle

is published 10 times per year by the Jewish Council of North Central Florida, Inc.
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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@jcncf.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@jcncf.org or call 352.371.3846.

All submissions are due on or before the 10th of the month prior to publication.

Together we can do extraordinary things!

JCNCF’s Annual Campaign goal for 2018/2019 is $180,000, and so far we have raised over $166,000. That’s 92% of our goal. Visit www.jcncf.org to make your secure donation online now, or contact us at 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org.

Name ____________________________ Email ____________________________ Phone ____________________________
Street ____________________________ City ____________________________ State __________ Zip ____________________________
Signature ____________________________ Pledged $________________________ Enclosed $________________________

PJ Library _____ Film Festival _____ Yom HaShoah _____ Israel Day Celebration _____ Mitzvah Day ______
The Chronicle _____ Beit Ruth _______ Jaffa Institute _______ Lone Soldier _______
Security _____ Community Grants _____ Unrestricted _______

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JCNCF’s Annual Campaign to Close May 31

Through the work of the Jewish Council and the Jewish Federations of North America, we impact Jewish lives, sustain the Jewish people, and enrich Jewish communities for generations to come. We are able to achieve our philanthropic and program goals through the generous donations of our community members in North Central Florida and beyond.

So far this year, the JCNCF Annual Campaign has raised over $166,000 of our goal of $180,000. We are thrilled to be at 92% of our target! If you are already a donor to the Jewish Council, thank you so much for your support of our mission. We are confident that we will raise the remaining $14,000 by the close of our Annual Campaign on Friday, May 31, but we need your help to do that! If you have not yet donated to JCNCF this year, please consider making a gift of any amount. Each dollar the Jewish Council raises is critical to the continued growth and health of the Jewish people.

Here in North Central Florida, and around the world, wherever Jews call home, your support of the Jewish Council makes a difference in more ways than we can say. Every dollar of every donation counts, so please give what you can. We thank you in advance and we are grateful to be your partner in Tikkun Olam - healing the world.

PJ Library is Jewish Learning for Life

PJ Library, PJ Our Way and PJ Goes to School are the signature family programs of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida. They are a partnership between the Jewish Council and the B’nai Israel Community Day School. They are made possible, in part, by a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and are supported by generous donations from the Jewish community of North Central Florida.

PJ Library is a Jewish family engagement program implemented on a local level throughout North America. We mail free, high quality Jewish children’s literature and music to local families on a monthly basis. Today, families in hundreds of communities around the world are able to explore the timeless core values of Judaism through books and music. Additionally, PJ Library sponsors programming approximately every month. These events and activities are usually centered around a Jewish holiday and are meant to be fun, creative and educational for the whole family. In the photos above, Jewish families gathered at Do Art to paint Elijah’s cups just in time for Passover.
The Jewish Council’s Israel Independence Day Program

\[\text{The Honey and the Sting}\]

FEATURING ROY RIMSHON

THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL
THROUGH THE LIFE AND COMPOSITIONS OF NAOMI SHEMAER

MONDAY | MAY 13 | 7:00PM
THE HARN MUSEUM AUDITORIUM

Roy Rimshon, a self-confessed Naomi Shemer enthusiast, brings light and life to Shemer’s story. From her childhood in Kibbutz Kinneret through adolescence, from her musical education and early songs to becoming a living legend, Shemer’s life is a colorful narrative.

Tickets: www.jcnecf.org/events.html | Admission $10 | Questions? Call 352.371.3846
Israel In Brief: News and Updates

By Ralph Lowenstein

Netanyahu Wins Israeli Election; Will US Peace Plan Soon Follow?

With Benjamin Netanyahu’s slim victory in the recent Israel election, it is expected that President Trump’s long-awaited Israel-Palestinian peace plan will soon follow. But what are the expectations for success?

In a recent poll of 2,200 Arabs living in the occupied territories by the Jerusalem Media and Communication Center, 65% said they believe the Palestinian leadership should reject any U.S. peace plan, while 6% said they should accept it, and 21% said they preferred that the Palestinian leadership negotiates over it. 78% said they would not accept any future peace agreement that included land swaps between Israel and the State of Palestine, and 84% said they would not accept any agreement that includes continued Israeli security control over parts of the Palestinian state. (JMCC-Palestinian Authority)

Airbnb Reverses Current Policy That Barred West Bank Listings

In a reversal of a 2018 policy announcement, Airbnb has announced that it will not remove West Bank Jewish settlements from its website. The policy change came in a court settlement between the vacation rental company and a dozen Jewish plaintiffs who had sued the company.

Airbnb announced last November that it would remove some 200 rental listings in West Bank Jewish settlements because they were “at the core of the dispute between Israelis and Palestinians.” In its new statement, Airbnb said it had always opposed the BDS movement against Israel. There are some 20,000 Israeli hosts for Airbnb in Israel proper, and these had been unaffected by the dispute. (JTA)

Four Gulf States Reject US Golan Announcement

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, all staunch U.S. allies in the Gulf states, have all publicly rejected President Trump’s announcement that the U.S. will now recognize Israel’s 1981 annexation of the Golan Heights. Israel has occupied the Heights since the end of the 1967 Yom Kippur War. The Bahrain ministry statement said that it is affirming UN Security Council resolutions that “the Golan Heights are Arab and Syrian territories.” (Ynet News)

South African Government Downgrades Offices in Israel

South Africa, once a friend of Israel, has become increasingly hostile as locally-born ethnic Africans have come to power. Foreign Minister Lindiwe Sisulu said in April that South Africa would no longer have an ambassador in Israel, and that the South African liaison office in Tel Aviv “will have no political mandate, no trade mandate and no development co-operation mandate.” (Jerusalem Post)

US Envoy Calls Palestinian Pay For Terror Attacks “Unacceptable”

At a recent UN Security Council meeting, the US special representative Jason Greenblatt called the Palestinian Authority’s continued rewards to terrorists’ families “unacceptable.” Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat claimed that the payments were “social welfare.” However, in reality, the maximum PA welfare system payment is only $168 a month, while it pays relatives of dead “martyrs” $392 a month. This is sometimes called “pay to slay.” (JNS-Algemeiner)

Archeologists Find Second Temple-Era Jewish Town Near Beersheba

Israel Antiquities Authority and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev have discovered a Jewish town in Beersheba from the Second Temple period (516 BCE to 70 CE). During the excavation, archeologists found a fragment of a candle which was decorated with a picture of a 9-branched candelabra, the earliest-known appearance of a menorah in art. (Jerusalem Post)

Israel’s lunar spacecraft, Beresheet, sent this selfie very close to the moon’s surface before losing contact with the control room. Photo courtesy of SpaceIL/IAI"
Tikkun Olam: A Bubbe and Grandaughter’s Journey on the Civil Rights Trail

Continued from page 1 country had joined them by the end of the march. The human desire for dignity and justice was and is powerful and the cost enormous.

Probably the most compelling day was our visit to the Equal Justice Initiative, where we attended a lecture and walked through the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. Walking through over 800 hanging steel corten monuments, all engraved with names of lynching victims and the county where they occurred, was emotionally overwhelming (photo at right). The monument seeks to trace the history of terror to entire black communities from slavery to lynching to Jim Crow. The hope of the memorial is to encourage a reckoning and responsibility among communities where lynching occurred throughout the Deep South and to facilitate reconciliation.

The Legacy Museum, also part of the Equal Justice Initiative, expounded on the history of slavery to the Jim Crow era, as well as, connecting the threads to the persistence of oppression today through police violence, mass incarceration, voter disenfranchisement, and continued systemic discrimination.

Sophie and I noted two themes which contributed to the power of the civil rights movement. The role of churches was profound in providing a place for gathering and organizing. There were many church bombings, the most well known being the 16th Street Baptist Church, where four young girls died and many more were injured. (Birmingham was called “Bombingham” because of the proliferation of terrorism from bombings.) The second profound institution was that of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, where youth could educate themselves in non-violent strategies and organize. Many of the Freedom Riders were college students and the drive to register voters was spearheaded by college students.

Because of our profound history, and the emphasis of justice in Jewish teachings, many Jews participated in the Civil Rights movement. Conscientious Jews offered financial support. Two Jewish college students were murdered, as was a black college student, as they tried to register people to vote. A Unitarian minister was murdered during a protest as the Civil Rights movement inspired many people of faith to work toward justice. The movement awoke a nation and the world to the injustice around them.

The sacrifice of so many people was compelling. The injustices which lead to the struggle for voting rights and equal access were profound. The parallels to Jewish history are unavoidable. Disenfranchisement and entrenched institutional prejudice are familiar themes, as are the terror of random acts of violence against communities and individuals. There is little difference between a pogrom and a lynching where sometimes thousands of men, women, and children watched someone be beaten and hanged, or burned alive. Tikkun Olam compels us to heal the world and recognize the suffering of others and attempt to make it right.
Sophie would want me to close with a plea for us all to continue to work for justice. She has been involved in several projects to address mass incarceration and is passionate about drawing our attention to the people we don’t see because they are imprisoned. Close to 25% of all the world’s prisoners (2.3 million people!) are held in the United States, a 500% increase in the last 40 years. Racism persists in our laws and through the sentencing discrepancies between blacks and whites for similar crimes. There are many ways we can help, from programs of sending books to prisoners, writing letters to them to reduce their isolation, ensuring that women prisoners have sanitary products, and assisting people transitioning from incarceration. Obviously, changing some of our discriminatory laws and voter disenfranchisement are critical. In the words of civil rights seekers of justice, “The Struggle Continues.”

As sobering as our grandmother and granddaughter sojourn was at times, we left inspired - inspired by heroic efforts of people willing to sacrifice even their lives to seek justice and dignity for the next generation, by meeting cruelty with humanity, by good people who joined the cause simply because it was right. In the words of Martin Luther King, “Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” For people of color, for Jews throughout the diaspora, for the oppressed everywhere, I hope we can do our small part to make that happen.
B’nai Day School Volunteers Make All the Difference

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

It takes a village to build a community! At B’nai Israel Community Day School, it takes many people to make us the school that we are. With over 25 dedicated staff, we work as a team not just building fun, engaging activities every day for our children and their families but also volunteering to work on expansion and innovation for our school in the future.

This year, our efforts have led us to add music and storytelling to our programming, as well as, a major renovation of our outdoor space coming this summer. Beyond our staff, we have dedicated volunteers who help out each week reading to our children like Roz Shever and Connie Stern, helping in the front office like Deedee Lamport and helping when we need repairs or upgrades—what would we do without Steve Bobroff? Then there’s our Day School Committee—a group of community members comprised of educators, parents, business leaders who set policy for the school and oversee the expansion of our programs. This dedicated team led by Alex Stern, meets monthly and is essential to the success of the school.

Lastly, our amazing Parents Association, led by Emi Melker and Deedee Lamport works to create programs and experiences throughout the year, not only for our families, but also to do appreciation initiatives for our staff. We all work to enrich each other. It is this idea of helping each other in full circle that makes me particularly grateful to this lovely community we have right here in the heart of Gainesville. It’s been a great year!
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:

Phil Freedman,
Father of Jill Freedman and Dave Nelson,
Grandfather of Ben and Josh

Lori Gilbert-Kaye,
killed in a shooting at the Chabad of Poway synagogue, Saturday, April 27

Don Halperin,
Husband of Elsa Halperin, z”l

Bernice Haller,
Mother of Arthur and Sylvia,
Grandmother of Michael and Allison,
and Great Grandmother of Zoe and Jack

Lois Diane Klempner,
Step-mother of Jessica Klempner Gutter,
and Michael Gutter

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.

Mazel tov to recent B’nai Mitzvah

Mason Steinberg, March 9

Dillan Wernecke, March 29

Prily Jaegle, April 13

Mazel tov to Ronald Cohen, Professor, Department of Clinical and Health Psychology at UF. Ronald is one of seven McKnight Brain Institute members named UF Research Foundation Professors for 2019-2022, an honor given to faculty whose research is likely to lead to continuing distinction in their fields.

Mazel Tov to Marvin Slott and Sonya Salkin! The couple were married on April 7 in historic St. Augustine.

Photo credit, Jimmy Ho Photography
Gainesville Congregations & Organizations

**Gainesville**

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Sandra James, Office Assistant
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Shauna Sikron, Coordinator of Jewish Learning
Caroline Birdrow, Adult Programming and Administration
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Interfaith Encounter Association (IEA)
www.interfaith-encounter.org

Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica (LIB)
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Dr. Rebecca Jefferson, Director
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The Tabacinic Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish (LCJC)
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Ocala & Other Congregations & Organizations

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Rabbi Yossi & Chanie Hecht, Directors
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13030 CR 103, Oxford, FL 34484
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Congregation Beth Israel (CBI-O)
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Save These Dates

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