11th Annual Jewish Film Festival Opens Sunday, March 7

If it feels like the Jewish Council just hosted a film festival not too long ago, it's because we did. Due to COVID-19, the 10th Annual Gainesville Jewish Film Festival was postponed from March to December of 2020. Now that we are heading into another month of March, the 11th Annual Jewish Film Festival is coming right up!

Like 2020, this year's festival will be virtual! The event streaming platform, Elevent (goelevent.com), will bring films directly into your home! How will this work? We're offering 12 films over a two week period. Films may be streamed to a computer or to a smart television via Apple TV, Roku or by ChromeCast. Each day there is a scheduled talk back session at 7:30 pm, led by a scholar from the University of Florida (except for 8:30 pm on Saturday, March 20). Films will be live and available for streaming for at least 48 hours prior to the talk back session. That way, guests will have plenty of time to view each film before their designated discussion time. For example, the talk back session for the opening film, Untitled Sneak Preview, is scheduled for Sunday, March 7 and guests may view that film starting at 12 am on Friday, March 5.

Tickets are $12 per screening. Passes are $40 for 4 films, $80 for 8, and $120 for all 12 screenings. University of Florida students are FREE with a valid UF ID. For more information and to purchase tickets, please go to jcncf.org/events.html or contact the Jewish Council at 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org. Turn to pages 6 and 7 to view the full festival schedule.

The Gainesville Jewish Film Festival is organized by the Jewish Council of North Central Florida and the Center for Jewish Studies, and made possible by: Bud Shorstein Professorship in American Jewish Culture and Society, Friends of Jewish Studies Tree of Life Fund, Gary R. Gerson Annual Lecture Series, Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish Studies, Harry Rich Endowment for Holocaust Studies, Jewish Council of North Central Florida, Mikki and Morris Futernick Visiting Professorship, and Norman & Irma Braman Chair in Holocaust Studies.

Thank You to All Who Supported JCNCF’s Beit Ruth Fundraiser!

Thank you so much to our Matching Gift Donors
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Together we can do extraordinary things!

JCNCF’s Annual Campaign goal (2020/2021) is $200,000 and we have raised over $173,000. That is 87% of our goal. Thank you to everyone who made that possible. Visit www.jcncf.org to make your secure donation online now, or contact us at 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.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.

The Chronicle
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PO Box 357936
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www.JCNCF.org - chronicle@jcncf.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.

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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.

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Anne Frank and a Family’s Journey to Freedom

By the Yom HaShoah Committee,
The Jewish Council

Holocaust survivors tell remarkable stories of chance and luck. They would not be survivors had they not experienced such good fortune. Few of those who escaped the Nazis have as interesting a tale as Pieter Kohnstam who will be the featured speaker at the 2021 Holocaust remembrance ceremony sponsored by the Jewish Council of North Central Florida.

A resident of Venice, Florida, Mr. Kohnstam was born to a German Jewish family who fled to Amsterdam soon after Hitler came to power in Germany. They left behind their home and a prosperous toy company. They rented an apartment in a large building on Merwedelein. In 1936, Pieter was born in Amsterdam.

That story would not be remarkable except for one thing: The same building housed another family of displaced German Jews. Apartment 37 – 2 was occupied by the family of Otto Frank comprising wife Edith and two daughters, Margo and Anne.

Anne Frank is known to us today as the young woman whose diary is perhaps the most powerful testament to the lives lost in the Holocaust. Before he gained such acclaim, she as just a neighbor to the Franks. As Mr. Kohnstam will relate to a Gainesville audience, she was his childhood playmate, friend, and occasional babysitter. Both Pieter and Anne attended local public schools in Amsterdam.

He recalls Anne Frank as “a vivacious, outgoing girl who adored children. She had an infectious laugh and was well-liked by everyone.”

In 1942, the Jews in Amsterdam were ordered to report to a transit camp where they would be sent to Germany to provide labor. Suspicious of this order, both the Frank and Kohnstam families chose to evade it. As Anne Frank’s famous diary recounts, the Franks joined others in hiding from the Nazis. Betrayed and sent to concentration camps, only Mr. Frank survived the war.

The Kohnstam family decided instead to run from the Nazis. It required a full year to pass through Belgium, France and Spain before they reached safety and freedom in Argentina. Pieter Kohnstam will tell us about that journey which is also described in his book, A Chance to Live: A Family’s Journey to Freedom.

Pieter immigrated to the United States in 1963 and pursued a career in the specialty chemical industry. He became a U.S. citizen in 1968. He and his wife, Susan, married in 1965, and have two children and three grandchildren. He is frequently invited to schools and various organizations to speak about his experiences as a Holocaust survivor, his book, and matters relating to Jewish and interfaith topics.

Mr. Kohnstam serves on the Board of Directors of the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect in New York. He was also active in the recently opened Southwest Florida Holocaust museum.
Save These Dates for Yom Ha’atzmaut Celebrations!

Sunday, April 11 at 2 pm - Zoom

JCNCF Joins Yom Ha’atzmaut Across America!

Yom Ha’atzmaut Across North America is a live virtual concert experience hosted by Sheldon Low and featuring some of the most recognizable names in Jewish music and leadership around the world.

More Details Coming Soon!

Thursday, April 15 at 7 pm - Zoom

Jewish Federations of North America’s Yom Ha’atzmaut Celebration!

More Details Coming Soon!

JELF Applications - March 1 Through April 30

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The JELF loan application opens on March 1. We look forward to supporting Jewish students achieve their education dreams with our interest free loans.

JJELF’s interest-free, last dollar loans for higher education can save students thousands in interest. But first, they have to know about JELF. With a small act of kindness, you can help make that possible.

Send applicants to JELF.org to get a reminder about our application for the 2021-22 academic year - opening on March 1.

Don’t let anyone you know lose the opportunity to lower their debt!
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Havdalah for Health - Eating for Health and the Planet
Saturday, April 10 at 8 pm on Zoom

We are pleased to announce Shamayim: Jewish Animal Advocacy’s newest program - Havdalah for Health - Eating for Health and the Planet. After Havdalah, we will discuss the Jewish values that tie into our eating and personal health and learn to practice meditative eating. We will be joined by Lisa Apfelberg, Director of Shamayim: Jewish Animal Advocacy; Aaron Guttman, owner Guttman Fitness, LLC, Corrective Exercise Specialist and Health Coach; and Rabbi Deb Smith, founder and spiritual leader of Congregation Or Ha Lev.

Explore what the Torah has to say about our responsibility to care for the planet and our personal health through a food-based discussion. Due to the pandemic, we are stuck at home and many of us are thinking about ways to stay healthy. We have heard about so many environmental calamities due to wildfires, storms, and floods and this is a good time to start thinking about personal and collective changes we can make. After the presentation, we will open up for Q & A for practical advice about plant-based diets including simple recipes for our amazing Jewish foods.

To register for this event, please contact the JCNCF office at 352.371.3846, email office@jcncf.org or visit: bit.ly/SAJEHavdalah.

JCNCF is Hiring

Director of Community Engagement & Programs

The Jewish Council of North Central Florida is looking for an energetic, passionate professional for the position of Director of Community Engagement and Programs. This full time position is focused on developing and implementing community programing for JCNCF. It also includes responsibilities related to our weekly and monthly print and digital newsletters.

For more information on how to apply, please call 352.371.3846 or email office@jcncf.org.
11th Annual Gainesville Jewish Film Festival -

**Talk-Back Session**
Sunday, March 7 - 7:30 pm

**Untitled (Sneak Preview)**
2020 / documentary / 70min
Israel / Hebrew, English & Polish

Directors: Chen Shelach

This area in central Warsaw was once the center of Jewish life. When the war ended, the neighborhood was literally rebuilt from the rubble. Today, thousands of Poles live there, yet its residents claim that Jewish ghosts still remain who at night wander the streets or haunt the apartments where they once lived. This is a superb film!

**Talk-Back Session**
Monday, March 8 - 7:30 pm

**Kosher Beach**
2019 / documentary / 62 min
Israel & United States / Hebrew, Yiddish, English

Director: Karin Kainer

Only a half hour drive from Bnei-Brak, “Kosher Beach” is a secluded 100 meter strip with dedicated days for women and men. Only a wooden fence separates the freedom of the adjoining gay beach and the Orthodox women. The film speaks to how great stories are gleaned from the most mundane of improbable juxtapositions.

**Talk-Back Session**
Thursday, March 11 - 7:30 pm

**Winter Journey**
2019 / drama / 87 min
Denmark & Germany / English & German

Directors: Anders Østergaard

Martin Goldsmith never knew the circumstances of his parents’ escape from Germany in 1941. Over a weekend, he confronts his father and we are transported to the complex and confusing 1930s when the parents were young musicians. This is a beautifully photographed film whose central character is brilliantly and compellingly performed.

**Talk-Back Session**
Saturday, March 13 - 7:30 pm

**Kiss Me Kosher**
2020 / comedy / 101 min
Germany & Israel / English, German, Hebrew & Arabic

Director: Shirel Peleg

A subversive love story between clashing cultures and families, the film is a romantic misadventure crossing a many great borders. It’s great fun!

**Talk-Back Session**
Tuesday, March 16 - 7:30 pm

**Leona**
2018 / drama / 94 min
Mexico / Spanish

Director: Isaac Cherem

A young Jewish woman from Mexico City finds herself torn between her family and her forbidden love with a non-Jewish man. This is a very well made, well scripted, compelling and superbly acted film.

**Talk-Back Session**
Wednesday, March 17 - 7:30 pm

**Outrement and the Hasidim**
2019 / documentary / 52 min
Canada / English, French, Yiddish

Director: Eric R. Scott

Hasidim in the charming, affluent and largely Francophone Montréal borough of Outremont are currently 23% of the population. The growing Hasidic presence poses a challenge to the French-speaking majority, some of whom fear they will soon be living in a “ghetto.” The film sensitively presents the point of view of both sides in search of reasonable accommodation.
**Talk-Back Session**  
*Tomorrow, When the Apricots Bloom*  
*2019 / documentary / 73 min*  
*Israel & France / English, Hebrew & French*  
**Director:** Tal Michael  
Shortly after the death of his uncles, Didier Frenkel descends into the basement of their shared home and finds an archive of animated films from their former home in Egypt starring Mish-Mish Effendi, the Arab equivalent of Mickey Mouse. This is a remarkable Jewish world entirely unknown to most of us and only now being rediscovered in the Arab world.

**Talk-Back Session**  
*The Light Ahead*  
*1939 / drama / 94 min*  
*United States / Yiddish*  
**Directors:** Edgar G. Ulmer  
This 1939 Yiddish classic, made on the eve of World War II and recently restored by the National Center for Jewish Film, is at once romantic, expressionist, and painfully conscious of the danger about to engulf European Jews. The film follows the story of two young, but poor, lovers who are helped by a wise old bookseller. *The Light Ahead* is arguably the finest of the four Yiddish films directed by Edgar G. Ulmer.

**Talk-Back Session**  
*Shared Legacies*  
*2020 / documentary / 95 min*  
*United States / English*  
**Director:** Dr. Shari Rogers  
The often forgotten story of the coalition and friendship between the Jewish and African-American communities during the Civil Rights Movement. The film offers a timely and heart warming reminder of the value of “good trouble.”

**Talk-Back Session**  
*Der Shoymer*  
*2019 / horror, mystery, thriller / 89 min*  
*United States / English, Yiddish, Hebrew*  
**Director:** Keith Thomas  
A man providing overnight watch to a deceased member of his former Orthodox community finds himself opposite a malevolent entity, in Keith Thomas’ electrifying feature debut. Joining Yiddish, mysticism and horror, the film offers a creative exploration of contemporary American Jewish filmmaking.
Gainesville Remembers Estelle Aden on Wednesday, March 10

You are invited to join the Gainesville Jewish community in remembering and honoring Estelle Aden on the first yahrtzeit (anniversary) of her passing. The monument unveiling will be held at the Congregation B’nai Israel Cemetery at 11 am. A memorial celebration and art dedication will be held at Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student and Community Center at 12 pm. A boxed lunch will be served at the memorial celebration. RSVP is appreciated. Please email Rabbi@jewishgator.com.

Please adhere to all CDC and Alachua County Covid-19 safety regulations while attending.
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:

Jerry Barshov,
Husband of Ruth Kovner

Stanley Brownstein,
Father of Stephen and Janet Brownstein

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.

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Gainesville Congregations & Organizations

B’nai Israel Community Day School (DS)
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
PO Box 118020, Gainesville, FL 32611
352.392.9247

Congregation B’nai Israel (CBI)
Rabbi David Kaiman
Jenifer Petrescu, Executive Director
Cassidy Oody, Programming Coordinator
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

Hillel at UF (HLL)
Rabbi Jonah Zinn
www.ufhillel.org
2020 W University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32603
352.372.2900

Interfaith Encounter Association (IEA)
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
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 Tabacinic 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
wwwshirshalom.net
3855 NW 8th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32605
352.371.6399

SPEAKERS

Guest lecturer
Professor Deborah E. Lipstadt
Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History
and Holocaust Studies,
Emory University

Response
Professor Norman J. W. Goda
Norman and Irma Braman
Professor of Holocaust Studies,
University of Florida

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

Forty Years of the Price Library of Judaica
A Slideshow Presentation
Rebecca J. W. Jefferson
Curator, Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica
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, President
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

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)
Rabbi Zev Sonnenstein
www.templeshalomcentralfl.org
13563 County Road 101, Oxford, FL 34484
352.748.1800

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