The Jewish Council of North Central Florida is proud to sponsor, once again this year, the Israeli Independence Day Celebration event for the Jewish community of North Central Florida. On Sunday, May 4, we will gather from noon to 3 p.m. at Westside Park to commemorate Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day) and to celebrate Yom Ha'Atzma'ut (Independence Day).

All are invited to come out for an afternoon of Israeli food, music and fun!

Guests will be serenaded by Klezmer music from Joe & Lynn Goldovitz and Friends, while feasting on home-made falafel, Israeli salad, cookies and brownies. Children can play in the bounce house, get their faces painted or dig for artifacts in the “archaeology exhibit.” Teens and adults can play Bingo, basketball, softball or four square. Guests are also encouraged to bring their favorite board game.

The recommended donation is $5 per person.

Please RSVP by Friday, May 2 at www.jcncf.org, by email to info@jcncf.org, or by phone at 352-336-0700.

(Continued on page 7)
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Please submit all material on or before the 15th of the month prior to publication. Because of space limitations, it is not always possible to publish all items submitted. If an item is not published and is still relevant, it will be automatically considered for the next month’s Chronicle.
Publication and/or specific placement in The Chronicle cannot be guaranteed.
In addition to regular columns and sections, articles in The Chronicle fall into two broad categories: News and Upcoming Events.
News articles are about events, awards, promotions, shows, etc. that have already taken place. Please include a photograph whenever possible. Upcoming Events are programs, classes, shows and such that have yet to occur. These events must be open to the entire community and the article should indicate this, include complete information regarding location, time, date, and costs if any, and a contact number to call for more information.
Photographs: When taking photographs you plan to send in for publication, please make sure your camera is set to high resolution. Photos that are not high resolution may not print well. Unless it is large group shot, include the names of everyone in the photo.
Please limit articles to 500 words. Articles should be substantially original material of interest to the Greater North Central Florida Jewish Community.
Material can be e-mailed in Word Document format to chronicle@jcncf.org, faxed (please don’t fax pictures) to (352) 379-5802 or dropped off at the Jewish Council of North Central Florida offices next door to Temple Shir Shalom.
If you have any questions, e-mail chronicle@jcncf.org or call (352) 379-5802.
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To make your donation securely online with a credit card, please go to www.jcncf.org.
Please call or email the office for instructions on how to donate stock or to make your gift directly to Jewish Federations of North America.
A Special Gainesville Treat
By Howard Rothman, The Music Maven

For approximately 250 people, Thursday evening, April 3rd 2014 was a very special time. A happening occurred at the Lubavitch Student Jewish Center on NW 5th Ave. thanks to Dr. Jack Kugelmass, the JCNCF, the Jewish Student Union and the Lubavitch Center, and others. Here, in the Galut of North Central Florida, some world class Jewish cantors and musicians gathered together to present music representing different Jewish cultures.

Cantor Yaakov “Yankee” Lemmer from Brooklyn, New York is currently cantor at the Lincoln Square Synagogue in Manhattan and represents the Ashkenazic cantorial tradition. If you like vocal music you will like him because he has a beautiful and well trained tenor voice. Rabbi/Cantor Hagay Batzri was born in Jerusalem and is currently the rabbi at Kahan Joseph Congregation in Los Angeles and is a representative of an Iraqi cantorial style.

There were four musicians: Shai Bachar, pianist, Yair Dalal, oud, Frank London, trumpet and Dror Sinai, percussionist. For the most part, these musicians had not appeared together before this concert. I was amazed at the ease in which they interacted with each other and improvised to the music of their own tradition or to another's tradition.

Dror Sinai sang in addition to playing with different drums and Frank London, on several occasions went off on a Ziggy Elman-like freilach improvisation.

For those who are too young to know, Ziggy Elman played with the Benny Goodman band and played some freilach improves for Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen and The Angels Sing at a memorable 1938 Carnegie Hall concert. Check it out on youtube.com. In fact, you can check out each of these musicians on youtube for hours of enjoyment.

I would recommend Yaakov Lemmer's Zochreinu L’Chaim, Remember us for life and his rendition of Leib Glant’s Sh’ma Yisroel, Hear O Israel. Also, listen to Hagay Batzr’s Shabechi Yerushayim, Praise Jerusalem and Deror Yikra, He will proclaim (a Shabbos song) as starters and then just go on enjoying.

The only complaint I have heard about the concert is that it was too short. If you weren’t there you missed something that was both very special and very Jewish, and, like Levy’s rye bread, you didn’t have to be Jewish to enjoy it.

Let’s hope that they can be brought back for a return engagement and that our community will ask for and support more events of this nature.

Junque to Jewels Returns In June

Now that Pesach is over, it’s time to set aside possible donations for Congregation B’nai Israel’s annual Junque to Jewels rummage sale at the end of June. We are looking for donations including your nicer quality gently used vintage collectibles, games, toys, household items, books, art, sports items, Judaica, jewelry, music, musical instruments, etc. Sorry, no clothing or computers/printers.

Plan to drop your items off at the B’nai Israel social hall starting June 8 and continuing through the week of the sale! Spread the word! Junque to Jewels is on June 27-29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Your participation will make this fundraiser a great success!
Mitzvah Day In Numbers And Pictures

On Sunday, March 30, more than 125 people helped heal the world with their service! The Jewish Council of North Central Florida is deeply grateful to everyone who donated their time, talent and treasures for the Fifth Annual Day of Service for Gainesville.

Thank you to Dawn Burgess-Krop and the Congregation B’nai Israel Catering Corps for hosting the breakfast and a special thank you goes out to the project team leaders: Steve Bobroff, Janet Brownstein, Kim Feigenbaum, Alan & David Geering, Arlene Goldberger, Eloise Harman, Sharon Hirshik, Elaine Kaplan, Randy Kraft, Linda Lewis, Patricia Moussatche, Nancy Parks, David Powliger, Sylvia Silberfeld, Lynne Sobel, Marcia Storch, Debra Trione, Michelle Singer and Dana Van Winkle.

Together, we provided:
- 38 Lone Soldier Care packages
- 125 lunches & toiletry bags for the hungry and homeless
- 37 casseroles for Ronald McDonald House, the Helping Hands Clinic & St. Francis House
- 100 snack bags for children at the Pine Ridge After School Program
- 8 Rain Barrels for BOLD
- 4 fleece blankets for the Children’s Home Society
- 15 move-in packages for teens aging out of foster care - Corner Drug Store
- A truck load of dog and cat food for the St. Francis House Pet Clinic
- Tons (literally) of clothing for Arc of Alachua County, Displaced Homemakers, Helping Hands Clinic, BOLD & Tacachale!

Save the date for the next JCNCF Mitzvah Day – Sunday, November 16, 2014. Pictures of some of our Mitzvah Day Volunteers in action appear below.
B’nai Israel Community Day School Honors Volunteers And Donors At Annual Luncheon

On Monday, April 7th, B’nai Israel Community Day School hosted its third annual Donor & Volunteer Luncheon.

Each year the Day School invites all of their donors and volunteers regardless of donation amount or time spent volunteering as a way of saying thanks. Many of those in attendance were parents and members of Congregation B’nai Israel; however the school also receives help from several Jewish members of the local community who attended as well.

The luncheon kicked off ‘Volunteer Appreciation Week’, five days of gifts and treats for all of those who helped out in the school throughout the year.

“We love our volunteers, they allow our programs to be made so much richer by their help,” said Day School Director Debby Kinman-Ford, “When they are here helping it gives the teachers the freedom to give more individual attention to the children.

Our donors allow us to offer additional programs we couldn’t do otherwise.”

The next big fundraising project for the Day School is a new playground.

Upcoming Events At Chabad Community Center

For more information or to RSVP for any of the following, please contact Rabbi Berl or Chanie Goldman at: www.JewishGator.com, 352-336 - 5877 or Rabbi@JewishGator.com.

Unless otherwise noted, all events are at Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student and Community Center 2021 NW 5th Ave. (five blocks north of the stadium).

Lag B’omer

15th Annual Lag B’omer Family Barbecue featuring: Kosher BB’Q with all the trimmings, face painting, bounce house, live show, crafts along with Jewish music and lots of fun for everyone

Sunday, May 18, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Bring the whole family, your friends, appetite and spirit! Adults $8, Children $6, Students $5. Be a sponsor for $180. Lag B’omer commemorates the lives of Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai; two great sages. They both set examples of proud perseverance to the Torah during the Roman occupation of Israel. Rabbi Akiva emphasized the importance of Jewish unity and Rabbi Shimon revealed the secrets of Kabbala. Their teachings continue to be an inspiration to the Jewish people.

Women’s’ Chodesh Club

A Study and Creative hands-on Activity Group.

Shavuot – A Dairy Tradition.

June 2 at 7 p.m.
Discuss: The reasons for eating dairy on Shavuot

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All at www.TempleShalomOxfordFL.org
A contribution and service of Temple Shalom by The Villages to the Jewish community and their neighbors in Central Florida.
Lag B’Omer, the thirty-third day of the omer count that connects Passover to Shavuot, is the anniversary of the passing of one of the greatest sages and spiritual giants in Jewish history, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai. This year we celebrate Lag BaOmer on Sunday, May 18th.

Rabbi Shimon, who lived in Israel under Roman occupation around 165 CE was an extraordinary scholar and author of the Zohar, the most basic Kabbalistic work. He was responsible for revealing to the world the wisdom of the Kabbalah, initiating a new era in the development and exposure of Jewish mysticism.

Before his passing, Rabbi Shimon instructed his disciples to observe his yahrzeit (the day of his death) as a time of joy and festivity, since the day of a person's death marks the culminating point of all that he achieved in the course of his life on earth.

Since then, Jews the world over, especially at his resting place in Meron, Israel, celebrate this day with singing, dancing, Torah study and an increase in acts of love and unity. Customs such as lighting a bonfire or parading in the streets are practiced worldwide on this day.

One particular custom practiced on the day of Lag B’Omer is unique:

Children go to parks and fields to play with bows and arrows.

What is the reason for this peculiar custom? To understand this, we must analyze the significance of a bow and arrow both from a literal and spiritual point of view.

The first weapons devised by man were designed for hand-to-hand combat: the sword, the spear, and the like. But a person's enemy or prey is not always an arm’s-length, or even within sight; soon the warrior and hunter were inventing weapons capable of reaching targets at a distance.

One of the fundamental ideas of Jewish mysticism is that every physical invention and phenomenon originates in the realm of the metaphysical. Consequently, the two types of weapons, the sword and the bow, designed for two different types of foes, exist also on a psychological and spiritual plane.

The man who invented this device had to grasp the paradox that the deadly arrow must first be pulled back toward one's own heart in order to strike the heart of the enemy; and that the more it is drawn toward oneself, the more distant a foe it can reach.

Every human being professes two types of foes both within his psyche and within his environment: exposed enemies and hidden ones. Exposed foes are the conscious patterns and behaviors in our lives that openly and overtly threaten our well-being: negative and promiscuous temptations, addictions, acts or words of immorality.

But a human being also possesses primal emotions and instincts that may live under cover for decades, infecting our lives but never exposing their face such as self-deception, buried feelings of vengeance, hate, selfishness, anger and jealousy. To confront the invisible enemy, one must employ an entirely new and different style weapon: the bow and arrow.

The more one draws the arrow toward oneself, the more distant and invisible a foe it can reach. Some problems in life can be solved by acquiring skills to deal with this or that impediment. Some trials, however, require (Continued on page 10)
Neims and Parks

(Continued from page 1)

developing advocacy guidelines for children’s issues within the family court system. Florida Supreme Court Justice Pariente appointed her to serve as the only mental health professional on the Family Law for Children and the Courts committee.

She has worked with family law advocacy groups to develop guidelines which consider the developmental ages of children in drafting shared parenting plans and participated in developing collaborative divorce programs in Alachua County.

In addition to her professional community service, Myrna has volunteered with the Homeless Van, making sandwiches and providing candles and batteries for the area homeless.

She has also been very involved in the formation and development of SWAG, the Southwest Advocacy Group, a neighborhood advocacy group that has worked to empower impoverished citizens in southwest Gainesville to achieve better neighborhood development and community involvement.

Assisting the disadvantaged to gain access and empowerment has been a mission for Myrna in many volunteer spheres. The Jewish Council of North Central Florida (JCNCF) is fortunate to have Myrna serving on its board.

Myrna celebrates her 53 wedding anniversary in June and enjoys seven grandchildren.

Nancy Parks is the other half of this dynamic duo. Nancy left Gainesville to attend college at Northwestern in Chicago, the hometown of her parents. After completing a Master’s Degree in History at Yale, she took a different turn and provided legal advocacy for victims of domestic violence as they navigated the court system, while her husband, Bob, completed his Ph.D. When their now thirteen year old son, Nathan, was born, the Parks decided it was time to return to Gainesville.

Ten year old Rachel completed the Parks family and Nancy has been very involved in volunteering at their respective schools.

Nancy offers that she has sought to “put good works in a Jewish context” and became involved in the Temple Shir Shalom Social Action project at the Pineridge Afterschool Program. Pineridge is a largely subsidized housing apartment complex in northwest Gainesville.

In partnership with Pineridge families, volunteers have assisted in using a donated apartment to achieve an afterschool and tutoring program for underprivileged elementary school age children.

Nancy volunteers by helping with homework, engaging in crafts, playing games and outside play. She notes that the children really benefit from the one-on-one attention the tutoring program can offer.

Pineridge has been a site for several Mitzvah Day projects and JCNCF volunteers have assisted in making the facility more welcoming and accommodating for the children’s needs.

Nancy is also a regular volunteer at the Helping Hands Clinic and creating Shabbat dinners for seniors at the Village. A volunteer experience of particular pride for Nancy is serving as a coach for the ten-week “Girls on the Run” program, a project which prepares third to fifth grade girls to train for a 5K run, while building self-esteem, body image, and ever-important team building skills.

A common feature for Myrna and Nancy has been their willingness to help where needed and the compassion they bring to their service. Gainesville is fortunate that fate brought them here, and the Jewish community is enriched by their ever-ready smiles, humor, and commitment to helping others.

Myrna and Nancy embody the meaning of Tikkun Olam with the
The current timetable on the Jewish calendar is Sefiras Haomer, the counting of the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot; when the Israelites began their journey to nationhood. It was a long arduous process, as they climbed from the depths of depravity to the highest spiritual level, in anticipation of receiving the greatest gift, the Torah.

Over seven weeks they prepared their bodies and souls, 49 days, corresponding to the seven Sefirot attributes, and each containing elements of all seven, totaling 49 personality traits. So too today, we count the Omer as we strive to refine ourselves, one day at a time. Each day, we climb a rung in the ladder striving to reach perfection through the 49 gates of understanding.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe of righteous memory, elaborates on how the rectification of our spiritual traits closely corresponds to the foods connected to both Holidays. On Passover we are forbidden to eat Chometz, leaven, which signifies arrogance and pride. Just having left Egypt and spiritually weak, the Jewish people ate Matzah, a manifestation of their efforts in becoming humble, modest and pure. So too, do we endeavor the same today. Seven weeks later on Shavuos, having refined ourselves for seven weeks, we are ready to formally eat bread, as reflected in the offering of the bread in the Temple, the only time leaven was brought to the Temple. G-d created a world full of physical objects, many of which can be channeled and used for good. However, there's a time and place for everything. Bread which rises can be eaten only when a person can channel pride in the proper direction, to serve G-d.

I found this lesson very relevant to our current struggle with electronics. As adults, phones, computers etc. are necessary and can be tools for much positive in the world. But, they must be used wisely. When phones are used at the wrong times, they will wreak havoc on children and in family lives, sometimes very subtly. When, used at work or after our children are in bed, devices can bring positive change, to help people become more efficient, more successful and to ultimately have more money and more time for loved ones. So, let's all take the challenge, in (Continued on page 9)
Hadassah Events Heading Into Summer

Here’s what’s going on with Hadassah as we wind down the year and head into the summer.

Interest Groups

The Art and Garden clubs of Hadassah are planning a joint tour of the Harn Museum of Art to visit both the Asian Art Collection and the Asian Garden. We are trying to arrange a morning tour and a lunch to follow at The Camelia Court Cafe. The date is still in the planning stage and as soon as the date is confirmed, we will call each of our members to alert them of the details.

If others wish to join, please contact either Diane Brody at 352-226-7195 or Michelle Jensen at 352-256-

baby steps. After all, G-d gave the Jews 49 days to prepare for Mt. Sinai. Let’s focus more on our families and less on our phones.

On behalf of Chanie and the children, we wish the entire community a very happy, safe and enjoyable summer and may we all merit to receive the Torah this Shavuot with joy and deep soulful infusion. On the first day of Shavuot, June 4 at 5 p.m., please join us for a live reading of the Ten Commandments followed by a dairy buffet in observance of the holiday.

Note: The articles written or published by the Chabad Center are primarily based on Chasidic insights, discourses, letters and talks by the Lubavitch Rebbe of righteous memory. Periodically we present articles and thoughts from Chabad.org and its contributing writers. We thank Chabad.org and its staff for allowing us to publish and share its inspiring articles.

Remember Hadassah When You Want To Remember Others

To buy or send cards for any occasion, call Ann Heft: 376-8145.

To buy or send cards or certificates, call Linda Lewis: 317-4978

For any questions or comments contact us at: gainesville@hadassah.org
uncover the “fragment of G-d” that constitutes the core of human existence and allows him to encounter the true depth of life and stand up to undisclosed demons that attempt to extinguish the light of G-d in his soul and his world and how to transform it into a symphony of G-d.

On Lag B’Omer, the day that marks the birth of Kabbalah and Jewish mysticism, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochei taught the Jewish people and the world how to use the bow and arrow.

feed the hungry, rest on Shabbat, eat only kosher foods—for thus you will fulfill your duty as a Jew to G-d and preserve the order that G-d instituted in His world.

And what about the deeper chaos at the core of the human consciousness?

The teachings of Kabbalah and Chassidism - the “hidden” part of Torah - have come to the world to tell the dramatic story of the interplay among the soul of man, the “soul” of G-d and the soul of all existence entangled with one other.

Just like the bow, they inspire the person to delve into the quintessence of his or her consciousness, to uncover the “fragment of G-d” that constitutes the core of human existence and allows him to encounter the true depth of life and stand up to undisclosed demons that attempt to extinguish the light of G-d in his soul and his world and how to transform it into a symphony of G-d.

On Lag B’Omer, the day that marks the birth of Kabbalah and Jewish mysticism, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochei taught the Jewish people and the world how to use the bow and arrow.

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Bows and Arrows

(Continued from page 6)

not an outer change but an inner transformation; not a change of pace, but a change of heart.

The Torah is generally comprised of two parts - Jewish law and Jewish mysticism, the “revealed” part of Torah and the “hidden” dimension of Torah. The former can be compared to the “sword,” the latter to the “bow.”

The first stream of Torah, which discusses Jewish law and ethics, teaches us to distinguish between good and evil, between the holy and the profane. The external body of Torah is our tool for meeting the obvious challenges of life.

Do not kill or steal, it instructs us; chosen for their personal warmth and ability to understand and care for each child as an individual. Each counselor is a role model for our children, promising them friendships that will last forever.

Dates: June 9 - June 19 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Age: Boys and Girls ages 6-11
Rates: $150 per child, per weekly session - $280 for both sessions
Junior Camp
9 a.m. to noon
Optional extended lunch & nap session: noon to 1 p.m.
Age: Boys and Girls ages 3-5
Rates: $90 per child, per weekly session - $160 for both sessions
Extended lunch & nap session: $25 per week
A limited number of reduced scholarship rates are available and will be given on a first come first serve basis.
Jewish Community Calendar — May 2014

Thursday, May 1
B’nai Israel Community Day School CDs go on sale
Friday, May 2
B’nai Israel Community Day School Shabbat Dinner, 5 p.m.
Sunday, May 4
Community Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzma’ut Celebrations, May 4, noon - 3 p.m. at Westside Park
Monday, May 5
Yom HaZikaron
Tuesday, May 6
Yom HaAtzma’ut
Wednesday, May 7
JCNCF Caregiver Support Group, 7 p.m.; For location and more information call Linda Lewis at (352) 317-4978
Thursday, May 8
Congregation B’nai Israel Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, May 9
B’nai Israel Community Day School Mishpacha Matters Mother’s Day Program, 8:30 a.m.
B’nai Israel Community Day School PreK Mother’s Day Tea, noon

Mother’s Day
B’nai Israel Men’s Club, 9 a.m., with guest speaker Rep. Ted Yoho.
Monday, May 12
B’nai Israel Community Day School Teacher Appreciation Week
Tuesday, May 13
Temple Shir Shalom Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph, 9:30 a.m.; also on May 27
Temple Shir Shalom Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Sunday, May 18
Lag B’Omer
Temple Shir Shalom Annual Meeting, 10 a.m.
Tuesday, May 20
Jewish Council of North Central Florida Board Meeting, 7 p.m. at Temple Shir Shalom
Saturday, May 24
Temple Shir Shalom Shabbat Service and Torah Study, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, May 25
Temple B’nai Darom lunch and show, a Chinese lunch with a performance to follow $10 for members and $12 for non-members, 2 p.m.

Monday, May 26
Memorial Day
B’nai Israel Community Day School, Alachua County Schools No Classes

Wednesday, June 4
B’nai Israel Community Day School Closed
Saturday, June 5
Alachua County Public Schools Last Day of School
B’nai Israel Community Day School Closed
Friday, June 6
B’nai Israel Community Day School Last Day of 10 month classes

Hadassah
(Continued from page 9)
one with a condolence card? Anniversaries? Bar/bat Mitzvah? Thank you?

There are so many ways to share your kindness and thoughtfulness with Hadassah cards and certificates. Ann Heft is waiting by her phone to take your order. Buy a bunch and have them on hand. We can deliver orders over $5.

Why Get Involved?
All of these opportunities to do good, to participate in enjoyable social events, and to raise money so Hadassah can continue its important work, especially in medical research accomplished through the Hadassah HMO. Hadassah offers excellent, worthwhile leadership training and workshops which can enhance your skills beyond the world of nonprofits. Working with others on events, participating in the interest groups, and attending Hadassah events are opportunities to enrich your life.

Please take a few minutes to check out our website Hadassah.org/Gainesville and our Facebook page facebook.com/GainesvilleHadassah You’ll find photos and good information.

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