JCNCF’s Annual Campaign Will Kick Off on Sunday, October 25

The Jewish Council is proud of the many educational programs, social gatherings and humanitarian initiatives that we are able to fund through YOUR donations - thank you! Please join us for our Annual Campaign Kick-off Event, on Sunday, October 25 at 11 am, as we welcome colleagues and friends from our national and international partner organizations. We are so excited to welcome and hear from:

Leslie Dannin Rosenthal, Chair of the Advisory Committee
The Network of Independent Communities of the Jewish Federations of North America

Danielle Burenstein, Executive Director
Iris Twerski, Managing Director
The Beit Ruth Educational & Therapeutic Village

Mitch Chupak, Director of Development
The Jaffa Institute

Also joining us is special guest speaker, Alina Gerlovin Spaulding. A Jewish communal leader and professional, Alina was born in the Ukraine and came to the United States with her family in 1979. Today, Alina credits her success to the help they received from Federations, like ours, which made it possible for her family, and so many others, to be part of the American Jewish community. Don’t miss her amazing and inspiring story! See pages 6 & 7 to read more about our speakers.

For more information or to RSVP for this event, please contact the Jewish Council at 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org.

JCNCF’s 12th Community Mitzvah Day, Sunday, November 15

Mitzvah Day 2020 will be very different than past years. Rolling up our sleeves together to give back to our community just isn’t possible this year, but we won’t let that stop us!

Communities all around the globe have been busy brainstorming, sharing ideas, and meeting on Zoom to discuss our concerns and our hopes for this year’s Mitzvah Day.

While we will miss the togetherness of our usual kick-off breakfast and speaker, we are keeping focused on what we can do to fulfill the deepest spirit of Mitzvah Day, giving back.

So in the spirit of Making Every Day a Mitzvah Day, don’t wait until November 15 to make a donation to support a meal on Mitzvah Day for one of the partner charities listed here. Let’s see how much we can raise between now and Mitzvah Day 2020 to help these organizations that serve the most vulnerable in our community at a time when they need our support the most.

We will have more information in the November Chronicle about how you can help.

How You Can Help Now!
Make a Donation Now at www.jcncf.org/donate.html or contact the JCNCF office

Breakfast at Grace Market Place
Breakfast at Ronald McDonald House
Dinner at Helping Hands Clinic
Support for Bread of The Mighty Food Bank
Drop off non-perishable food at Congregation B’nai Israel.
Contact the JCNCF office for details about dropping off clothing.
Together we can do extraordinary things!

JCNCF’s Annual Campaign goal for last year (2019/2020) was $200,000, and we raised nearly $190,000. That was 95% 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 $____________

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.

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

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PJ Library & PJ Our Way Visit Israel via Zoom! Sunday, October 18

Tour of Israel for the High Holidays & Sukkot

Join us as our friend Rotem Shahar (a professional Israeli tour guide) and her friends, share with us what the High Holidays and Sukkot were like this year in Israel.

Do they do the same things we do? What do they do that is different? Let’s find out together!

On Sunday, October 18 we will meet via Zoom at 10:00 AM.

To get an invitation to register email Alicia at family@jcncf.org, or, copy and paste this URL: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrc--vpjMjEtAruLV5E-qcEIr-0L6uq7hZH

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

JCNCF’s Micro Grants Help Create Community from a Distance

By Marcia Storch, Temple President
Temple Shir Shalom

With the help of a JCNCF Micro-Grant, Temple Shir Shalom was able to distribute Rosh Hashanah in a Bag. The project created 120 Rosh Hashanah gift bags creating community from a distance.

The bags included two apples, two candles, a 2 oz jar of Florida honey, two masks, a craft project, recipes and inspirational prayers. Volunteers Ann-Marie Magne’ and Jamie Menczer helped put the bags together. Most of the bags were picked up by drive through. Eric Ascher helped deliver bags to several community members who were not able to drive though and pick theirs up. Bags were also delivered to those who were homebound or in senior facilities.

This was an opportunity to maintain connection and reach out to those who are yearning to connect. Fulfilling Kol Yisrael Areivim Zeh Bazeh, responsibility for one another was our objective. Thank you to JCNCF for supporting this project!

Turn to page 11 to learn more about JCNCF’s Community Micro-Grants.
Election 2020: Florida and the Jewish Vote in an Era of Crisis

A Public Webinar Discussion Tuesday, October 6, 7 to 9 pm

Join this panel discussion presented by the UF Center for Jewish Studies, on the 2020 election, the pivotal place of Florida on election night, the problem of voter suppression, and the state and national Jewish vote. Learn more and register for this webinar by visiting https://jst.ufl.edu/election-2020-florida-and-the-jewish-vote-in-an-era-of-crisis/.

Please Note: a recording of this discussion will be available after the event at the same URL and on the Center for Jewish Studies Facebook and YouTube pages.

Participants

SENATOR NAN RICH is recognized as one of the most passionate and dedicated members of the Florida Legislature, Nan Rich was first elected to the State Senate in 2004 after serving 2 terms in the House of Representatives. She was the first woman to be elected Senate Democratic Leader – a position she held from 2010 until she was term-limited in November 2012. In November of 2016 Nan Rich was elected to serve as Broward County Commissioner, District 1 and re-elected, unopposed, in 2020.

RICHARD SCHER is a professor of political science in the Political Science Department at the University of Florida. His research interests include: voting rights, legislative districting political campaigns in America, state politics, Southern politics, political culture and regionalism, Florida politics, and American federalism.

DANIEL A. SMITH is a professor and chair of Political Science at the University of Florida. He has been an expert witness in numerous voting rights lawsuits in Florida and across the country. He researches how political institutions affect political behavior in American states. His books include Tax Crusaders and the Politics of Direct Democracy; Educated by Initiative; and State and Local Politics: Institutions and Reform. He is widely quoted in the Florida and national media.

KENNETH D. WALD is a distinguished professor emeritus of Political Science and Jewish Studies at the University of Florida. He has written extensively about the relationship of religion and politics in the United States, Great Britain, and Israel. His newest book, The Foundations of American Jewish Liberalism won the 2019 National Jewish Book Award in the Category of American Jewish Studies.
JCNCF Continues to Support the Helping Hands Clinic

On Monday, November 16, the Jewish Council needs your help to provide a special holiday meal for the Helping Hands Clinic!

JCNCF is partnering with Chef Empowerment Kitchen, a local nonprofit to provide a special meal for the clinic's patients and volunteers. To donate now in support of this project, please contact the JCNCF at 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org

The Bible Players, Thursday, November 19 at 8 pm

The Bible Players bring down the bayit (house) in your very own living room with their award-winning unkosher comedy show for adults! Drinks and pants are optional but recommended.

Thursday, November 19th @ 8:00 Eastern on Zoom

To register for this event, contact the JCNCF office at 325.371.3846 or email office@JCNCF.org
JCNCF’s Campaign Kick Off Event

On Sunday, October 25 at 11 am, the Jewish Council will be kicking off its Annual Campaign for the year 5781 with a talk by special guest, Alina Gerlovin Spaulding, who will be speaking about Building a Better Tomorrow Together. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a concern in our community, we will be offering this event online via Zoom. Also joining us that day will be the four Jewish professionals featured here. We asked our guest speakers to consider the questions What inspired you to start doing philanthropy work? and What motivates you to keep doing it?

Leslie Dannin Rosenthal, Network Advisory Committee Chair of the Jewish Federations of North America

Tzedakah in the sense of philanthropy, is part of some of my earliest memories. I remember very clearly my mother letting me drop coins in the “blue box” that sat on our kitchen windowsill before the Shabbat candles, and telling me that the money would go to help build Israel, a country not twenty years in its modern existence at the time. Raising money for Jewish causes and giving money for Jewish causes, was a primary activity and topic for my parents, my grandparents and our entire community.

I have seen living proof that the work we do saves lives. Without Jewish philanthropy, people I have met in Ethiopia would not have been able to make Aliyah, the people I met in Cuba would not have the tools to celebrate Shabbat, and that the elderly living in poverty and isolation in Ukraine, Belarus and even in Israel, would not be alive at all. Jewish mutual responsibility keeps me doing this work every day, knowing that people I might never meet are part of my Jewish family and that I can help even in some small way, both motivates me and comforts me.

Mitch Chupack, Development Manager, The Jaffa Institute

I was motivated by the fact that there is a great need in Israel to make a definite social change. There is a great need to help those who do not have, to help those young people who do not have parents that can be role models and direct them to be productive citizens of Israel.

The key is just doing. Once you start doing and helping people you see their growth and you see their change. You help them through their hardships and give them the ability to succeed in life and make a life for themselves. They really do it on their own, we push. We also take great pride in seeing those who graduate university, succeed in the IDF, get married and have children, and their children do not come back to the Jaffa Institute.

The greatest thing with the Jaffa Institute is the ability to address multiple issues and fill the niche where we are needed most. We have always listened to our great staff’s suggestions as to the needs of the community and what can bring change. We have always been flexible to re-adjust programs and methods to ensure we are doing the right thing and our best. The delivery of 40 some programs to over 6,000 people annually is a great task.

With 230 staff members (not all full time) and thousands of volunteers we are able to orchestrate and deliver services which give those in need the push and direction to bring them out of poverty. The secret recipe is that we have the most talented staff members who are dedicated to the belief of making Israel a better place and doing everything we can to change the lives the those who are in need, be it a young child all the way to the elderly and Holocaust survivors.

With partners like you all, our dear friends in JCNCF, Gainesville, Ocala and surrounding areas, we are able to fulfill our vision Tzedakah and bring Tzedek (Justice) to those in need. We could not do it without you and you play an extremely important role in the lives of so many.

Besides, I love coming to Gainesville and hanging out, and always heartfelt thanks to Steven Slutsky who started the ball rolling and a great relationship in 1998.
Building a Better Tomorrow Together

Danielle Burenstein, Executive Director, Beit Ruth

There is so much that inspires me about the work I do for the girls of Beit Ruth, including my own family history. My mother, a Holocaust survivor, would often say that strangers helped to save her. People risked their own lives, or the lives of their loved ones, to help a perfect stranger, simply because it was the right thing to do. That’s how I learned that one person can make a difference. I feel inspired to do just that – to make a difference, to make the world a better place. I see that it really is possible. And I know that by working together and building community, we can do so much more. It is all possible.

I see the real and immediate difference we make in the lives of our girls and all the people they end up touching. I love that we get to inspire others to join us on this life-saving and life-changing journey. I get inspired knowing that by building and growing our community of supporters and friends, we are helping to make the world a kinder, more just place. I love meeting people who, whether they know it or not, are eager to help and step in.

Of course, there are challenges, but I personally focus on the difference we make. That’s what drives me forward. I also just have to think of our girls, and the too many girls all over the world, who need a Beit Ruth. That’s what fuels me and gives me energy on the difficult days.

I also think about the first time I ever went to the Village. I was taken by the beauty of it – the trees, the birds, the flowers, as well as the smiles and laughs I heard from every corner. You would think that a place that is home to abused and vulnerable girls would be sad and gray. But that’s not Beit Ruth. I remember feeling the love and hope, and seeing the gentleness and kindness of the staff and the courage of our girls. Then I found myself surrounded by a group of girls, asking me questions, inviting me to visit one of the homes. I asked one of them what is it about Beit Ruth that she loves. Her response: “They love me no matter what.” That’s what my mother used to say to me, all of the time. “I love you no matter what.” That’s when I knew I was where I was meant to be.

Iris Twerski, Managing Director, Beit Ruth

I really feel honored to have the opportunity to be a part of our girls’ lives. What they have gone through at a young age, their history – yet, they find the power to fight. They have such strong personalities and beautiful souls. To be near these young girls who carry so much and are survivors inspires me to be there for them. By the time they are 13 – to think what they have been through – I’ve never seen anything like it in my life. To see how hard they work for a better life and to see how they succeed is just amazing.

Our mission is to make sure our girls thrive in every way. Our girls have their own mission, which is to change and transform their past and themselves. To me, being part of both of those missions means a lot. It’s also an opportunity to be among such good people, working with donors, volunteers, and colleagues who are so devoted. Being part of that and helping to manage it – I am lucky to be able to do it. We do it for the satisfaction of doing the right thing. We are touching the good part of our girls’ lives. When I’m working with donors and our girls, I am focused on what is important in life. The times when I talk to donors are the best calls I have because I can tell them the difference their caring support is making for our girls. Sure, we have big challenges, but that’s what makes the successes so sweet. I look at many of our graduates and it is unbelievable what they have accomplished.

After 14 years, I am just trying to do the right thing. I always want to make sure things are moving forward. I want to spend my energy on work that matters and how it helps our girls. I am also trying to teach the world to do what’s right. We are at the center of our girls’ lives. We are a way to help save them. When we started in 2006, it was a different atmosphere. There were things we didn’t dare talk about back then. There has been a cultural change. Today, we talk about the fact that girls are being abused at a young age, and it’s our job to help them.
Updates on The Group

By Edward R. Block

In the fall of 2018 a group of concerned Jewish and African-American citizens in Gainesville came together and created the African American-Jewish Dialogue Group (The Group). The mission and goals of The Group are (1) to increase meaningful relationships between African American and Jewish communities and to improve mutual understanding of their experiences and (2) to provide ongoing support of our 2 communities, to create support structures to strengthen each other in times of stress, and to mobilize communities when needed.

To address the mission and goals, The Group has sponsored a number of community activities and events. On July 16, 2019, The Group, with the able leadership of one of its members, Sherry DuPree, conducted a tour of Rosewood where, in January 1923, a racially motivated massacre of African Americans and destruction of their town took place. During that tour, we learned of the role of two Jewish men, the Bryce brothers, who used a train they owned and operated to ferry women and children escaping the Rosewood massacre to Archer and Gainesville.

On January 5, 2020, The Group sponsored a “Friends Gathering” at the Main Branch of the Alachua County Library focused on building relationships between the African American and Jewish communities in Alachua county. This was followed by a Zoom gathering on July 13, 2020 aimed at mobilizing voter registration and turnout. This event served as a kick-off for what has become active and ongoing participation by The Group in a phone campaign to encourage voting, especially by mail.

Most recently, The Group sponsored a second interactive Zoom event on September 14 entitled African American and Jewish History in the U. S. and Alachua County. Speakers included Edward Block, Vivian Filer, David Pawliger, and Sherry DuPree.

Other on-going activities of The Group include participation in the Community Remembrance Project where one of the members of The Group, Rabbi Michael Joseph, is serving on a subcommittee on community education, and support for Gainesville City Commissioner Gail Johnson’s Save Gainesville’s Historic Neighborhoods initiative focusing on the Seminary Lane neighborhood.
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:

Dr. Raphael T. Hafka,
Husband of Rose.

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.

Mazel Tove to Alisha Katz!

Alisha has been recognized as part of the Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development’s 2020 Class of Rising Stars. The national designation is awarded to healthcare strategy professionals under the age of 40 who have demonstrated outstanding promise to their field.
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
Shauna Sikron, Coordinator of Jewish Learning
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
mbbacharach@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
www.shirshalom.net
3855 NW 8th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32605
352.371.6399

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(800) 373-8000
Email: jmeldon@meldonlaw.com
Website: meldonlaw.com
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
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)
Rabbi Zev Sonnenstein
www.templeshalomcentralfl.org
13563 County Road 101, Oxford, FL 34484
352.748.1800

JCNCF’s Community Micro Grants

The Jewish Council of North Central Florida, Inc. (JCNCF) will accept Micro Grant applications for projects and activities which further the mission of JCNCF: To operate and engage in philanthropic, cultural, charitable, educational and religious activities that contribute to the welfare of the Jewish community of North Central Florida and other Jewish communities located throughout the world. The goal of a grant must reflect one of the three areas specified in this passage from Pirkei Avot “The world is built on three things: Torah (Jewish law & learning), Avodah (service to G-d & Jewish community) and Gemilut Chassadim (acts of loving kindness)”. Micro Grants submissions began August 1st and will be awarded from September through June of each year. Micro Grant Requests should be submitted by the first day of the month before it is needed from August 1st through May 1st. (For example, submit by August 1st for a September event.) We will be offering one Micro Grants of $360 each month from September to June. Here is a small sample of grants that we funded in the past year.

1. Cong. B’nai Israel Chavaya requested funding for materials needed to develop the Hebrew School’s Arts program stating “we intend to turn a particular focus toward lessons of Jewish Creativity and Innovation.” The grant directly benefited the 50 students.
2. Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala’s Sisterhood requested funding for gifts to be given to the Jewish residents of assisted living facilities in their area. The goal of the Sisterhood is to foster Jewish culture and giving in the community.
3. The Shabba Tones, Gainesville’s brand-new choir requested funding to order choral music to begin their rehearsals. The vision of the Shabba Tones, which has 30 people participating, is to preserve Jewish choral music and present it to the public, and touch people’s hearts.

Please go to the JCNCF website, jcncf.org to download the Micro Grant Request Form. The Grants Committee looks forward to receiving your request.
Save These Dates

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