Recording Life in the Warsaw Ghetto
The JCNCF Community Yom HaShoah Remembrance Event

By Abe Goldman, Chairman
JCNCF Yom HaShoah Committee

On Sunday, May 1 at 7 pm, the Jewish Council will hold their annual Community Yom HaShoah Remembrance event at Congregation B’nai Israel in Gainesville. This year’s featured speaker will be Samuel D. Kassow, the Charles H. Northam Professor of History at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

Kassow’s talk, “Recording Life in the Warsaw Ghetto: Emanuel Ringelblum and the Secret Archives,” is based on his prize-winning book, Who Will Write Our History: Emanuel Ringelblum, the Warsaw Ghetto and the Oyneg Shabes Archive, which has been translated into eight languages.

Dr. Kassow is himself the son of Holocaust survivors. His mother survived by being hidden under a barn by a classmate, and his father was imprisoned by the Soviets for most of the war. They met in a Displaced Persons camp near Stuttgart after the war, where he was born. The family later emigrated to the United States, and he grew up in New Haven, Connecticut.

Kassow is also the author of numerous other books and articles and is a consultant to the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, whose core exhibit opened in 2014 and which is on the site of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Yom HaShoah continues on page 4

Our Community Honors Connie Stern

By Virginia Brissette Hirshik
JCNCF Executive Director

Pirkei Avot advises us to “make for ourselves a teacher” and that in addition to the knowledge we take away, we will “acquire for ourselves a friend." Any of the 100 or more people who have learned with Connie Stern (including this writer) can attest to the truth in this statement. In addition to being a devoted mother, grandmother, and nurse, friend, scholar and leader, are among the many roles that Connie fulfills for the Jewish (and general) community of Gainesville. Her long time dedication to Torah, Avodah and Gemilut Hassadim are the inspiration for a gala to honor her on the evening of Sunday, April 17.

Connie has been a part of the Gainesville Jewish landscape from nearly the moment she came to the University of Florida to study sociology in 1966. She arrived on her birthday - August 30 - and never left. Originally from New York, Connie was born in Jamaica Queens and grew up on Long Island, in Valley Stream and Uniondale, to be precise. Connie’s mother passed away when she was 7 and their family moved to Pompano Beach when she was 10.

You may be surprised to learn that Connie met her bashert and husband, Bob, as the indirect result of a computer dating service. “How was that possible in the late 1960s?” you may ask. The story goes that Connie’s Bob and Connie celebrating Chanukah at Congregation B’nai Israel

Connie Stern continues on page 10
Thank You for Volunteering!

*In March over 100 community members received mishloach manot bags and a visit from volunteers. Thanks to all who helped with packaging and deliveries: Jenna Backer Price, Sandy Berger, Dawn Burgess-Krop, Sharon Hirshik, Helene Johns, Ophir Lehavy, Steven Schell, Heath Lynn Silberfeld, Carolyn Stalvey, Marcia Storch, Debra Trione.

*Thank you to the March Adopt a Street Clean Up Team—Karen Deeter, Andy Hirshik, Seema Kramer, Maurice Levy and David Pawliger, who leads this mitzvah project every other month.

*On the fourth Thursday each month, volunteers from the Jewish Council serve a meal to 40 or more homeless and/or hungry women at the Helping Hands Clinic, which is an ongoing project of the First United Methodist Church. Thank you to the March volunteers from the B’nai Israel Community Day School Younger One’s Class.

Yom Ha’Atzmaut

Needs Your Help!

JCNCF’s annual community Israeli Independence Day celebration will be on Sunday, May 15. The planning committee is looking for volunteers to help with set up, clean up, food service and supervising children’s activities.

Please contact Tamara Segal at 352.371.3846 or email her at office@jcncf.org to find out how you can help.

The Chronicle

is published 10 times per year by the Jewish Council of North Central Florida, Inc.

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This issue of the The Chronicle was produced for the community by Virginia Brissette Hirshik, Dawn Burgess-Krop, Tamara Segal, and Heath Lynn Silberfeld. 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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All submissions are due on or before the 10th of the month prior to publication.

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.

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.

For more information, please call 352.371.3846 or email chronicle@jcncf.org.

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.

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Your Gift to JCNCF’s Annual Campaign Can Make a Difference!

The Jewish Council of North Central Florida supports Jewish life locally and globally and operates entirely on the generous contributions of community members. We are grateful for your donation and thank you for supporting the Annual Campaign and our many community events and programs.

I am/We are pleased to pledge/donate the following amount to support Jewish life in North Central Florida while also maintaining support for international Jewish needs. To make your donation securely online with a credit card, go to www.jcncf.org. Please call or email the JCNCF office for instructions on how to donate stock or to make your gift directly to The Jewish Federations of North America. Contact us at 352.371.3846 or at office@jcncf.org.

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Your Gift to the Annual Campaign Lights the Way for the Future

By Dawn Burgess-Krop, President
Jewish Council of North Central Florida

As I write this, I am wondering if there is some unknown physics theory postulating that our Jewish calendar seems to whirl past with increasing speed every successive year. We have just completed the last night of our Sixth Annual Jewish Film Festival and are basking in the glow of many sold-out films and lively post-film discussions.

Thanks to many wonderful volunteers, Purim bags are assembled and delivered for our community Seniors. The Yom Hashoah committee has been working for months to plan a meaningful and interesting Yom Hashoah observance and JCNCF staff have some fresh ideas for a different and fun Yom Ha’Atzmut celebration. As we create the Chronicle each month, it is a challenge to keep up with all that is happening our vibrant Jewish community.

We are approaching the time of the year when our board decides our allocations to send overseas and contemplates local grants for special synagogue programs, education for our youth, and many valuable ways to enhance local Jewish learning and experience. Our overseas allocations go to the Federation to assist Jews facing challenges across the globe, whether it is Jewish relief workers bringing food to elderly people in the Ukraine, or assisting Jews wishing to escape rising anti-Semitism in Europe and make a new life in Israel. In addition to the money contributed to the Federation, Jewish Council of North Central Florida has a longstanding commitment to sending financial aid to the Jaffa Institute, a social service agency that serves thousands of underprivileged and neglected youth in the Tel Aviv area.

As we face these weighty decisions, we need your help. If you have not yet contributed to our campaign, please take the time to do it now. Your donation to JCNCF supports local programs that bind our Jewish community together. Your donation helps meet our obligation to fellow Jews in Israel and throughout the Diaspora. Your donation helps address the enormous burden Israel faces in caring for their underprivileged youth. Your financial support has helped create a therapeutic home for abused teen girls in Israel. Your donation helps publish the Chronicle, which provides news about our entire Jewish community and provides valuable information about upcoming events.

Our JCNCF board is acutely aware that you entrust us to make careful decisions with your money. JCNCF has evolved and changed over the years, yet we remain committed to strengthening our Jewish ties within our own community and fulfill our moral obligation to help Israel and Jews in need throughout the world. Please help us fulfill our commitments by making your donation today. Here are the ways you can donate to JCNCF:

Mail a check
Drop a check by the office
Give online through www.jcncf.org
Make a gift of stock

It is with deep gratitude that I thank all of you who donate every year. You give your time, you help with projects, and you faithfully contribute money to keep our working going. We are acutely aware that you have many requests for contributions and are honored you believe JCNCF is worthy of your support. Thank you for making a difference. Together, we truly can do extraordinary things.
The focus of Kassow’s talk, Emanuel Ringelblum (shown in photo below), was the central organizer, writer, and compiler of the remarkable and perilous effort by a group of dedicated chroniclers to record all aspects of life in the Warsaw ghetto between 1940 and 1943. In the 1920s Ringelblum was a young historian who wrote and taught on the long history of Jews in Poland. In the 1930s he also began to work with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), helping bring economic aid and fostering self help by Polish Jews who were facing rapidly growing discrimination.

In November 1940, he founded the Oyneg Shabes, which was an effort to create a secret archive of Jewish life in the ghetto. He trained and directed the members of the Oyneg Shabes to record all aspects of life in the ghetto as comprehensively and objectively as possible.

Their work continued until the mass exterminations of 1943. Three caches of the secret archives were hidden in milk cans (photo at right) in the ghetto, one of which was found after the war in 1946 and a second in 1950.

In 1943, Ringelblum was sent to a labor camp, but subsequently escaped and returned to Warsaw, where he hid in an underground bunker and continued to write until he and his family were discovered and murdered by the Germans in March 1944.

Later Ringelblum also helped provide relief for the first waves of German Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi violence. With the Nazi invasion and occupation of western Poland, he became a key organizer of relief and cultural activities in the Warsaw ghetto.

Samuel Kassow worked for many years to reconstruct the remaining portions of the archive, traveling between Warsaw, Jerusalem, and Washington to find and compare copies and fragments that were scattered among the three repositories. In the end, he has been able to compile and analyze what is the most comprehensive and unsanitized record we have of the efforts of Polish Jews to preserve their lives and their culture under murderous Nazi occupation.

While in Gainesville, Professor Kassow will also speak at the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica, another event coordinated by the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Florida. His talk, In Those Nightmarish Days: The Ghetto Reportage of Peretz Opoczynski and Josef Zelkowicz will be at the Judaica Suite on Monday, May 2 at 5:30 pm.

Holocaust Remembrance Event Set for Sunday, May 1
The Wharton School of Business, U.S. News and World Report, and BAV Consulting published their 2016 list of “Most Powerful Countries” in the world, based on three factors: military power, international influence, and international alliances. Israel ranked eighth in the top ten: United States, Russia, China, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Japan, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea.

Middle East in Epic Drought.

According to a NASA study, the Middle East is experiencing the worst drought in 900 years. However, these extreme weather events have been significantly dampened in Israel by her array of six desalination plants. When the newest plant, located in Ashdod, goes into full production, the six plants will produce 600 million cubic meters of water—nearly 70% of Israel’s domestic water consumption.

Israel in Brief: News and Developments

By Ralph Lowenstein

Palestinians Lose Jobs Due to BDS.

SodaStream is an Israeli company that invented a way of producing carbonated drinks of all flavors in the home. It now markets the machines and flavoring in 45 countries. SodaStream closed its major factory in Mishor Adumim in the West Bank late last year and moved it to Lehavim in the Southern Negev as a result of an effective Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaign against the company, primarily from European nations. In all, about 500 Palestinians lost their jobs. Generally, Palestinians working for Israeli factories in the West Bank earn about three times more than those working for Palestinian companies.

Textbook History and Non-history.

Israel Radio conducted a systematic survey recently of more than 70 official textbooks distributed by the Palestinian Authority in grades 1–12 in the West Bank. It found that Israel is routinely left off maps, Israeli cities are said to be in Palestine, and martyrdom is celebrated. Israel Radio said “there is no education towards two states” or discussion of a Palestinian state alongside Israel within the 1967 lines. In history books for grades 10–12, full chapters are dedicated to World War II but with no mention of the Holocaust.

Israel Companies in the News.

The U.S. company Cisco Systems recently announced that it plans to acquire Israel’s Leaba Semiconductor, a designer of networking chips, for $320 million. Another Israeli company, Ga’ash Lighting, is replacing energy-inefficient streetlights around the world with more efficient and smart LED streetlights. Ga’ash’s Apollo streetlights allow a technician to program lighting at the proper intensity, as needed. Intensity can be set at 20% as the sun goes down and put into full capacity when it’s dark. At 3:00 a.m., in areas where there is no traffic, intensity can be dropped to 50%, substantially cutting a town’s electricity bills. Another Israeli company, StoreDot, has introduced a battery capable of charging a smartphone in 30 seconds and an electric car in 5 minutes.

Most Powerful Countries.

Recently, the Wharton School of Business, U.S. News and World Report, and BAV Consulting published their 2016 list of “Most Powerful Countries” in the world, based on three factors: military power, international influence, and international alliances. Israel ranked eighth in the top ten: United States, Russia, China, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Japan, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea.

Only in Israel. A 7-year-old boy, Ori Greenhut, hiking with his father in February, discovered a 3,400-year-old Canaanite female figurine near an archeological site in Tel Rehov, Israel. About the size of a hand, the idolatrous relic was typical of Canaanite culture between the 15th and 13th centuries BCE.
The Jewish Film Festival Enjoyed Its Best Year Yet

By Virginia Brissette Hirshik,
JCNCF Executive Director

The Gainesville Jewish Film Festival is more than just a week when a group of people go to the movies together. Through the donation of time, talent and treasure from the North Central Florida community, the Jewish Council is able to support global Jewish causes, while also funding local grants, events and projects. The Gainesville Jewish Film Festival represents the achievement of both of those objectives at one time.

When we screen films by new and veteran film makers, we support Jewish artists and businesses around the world. By gathering at the Hippodrome Cinema and seeing these films together, we bond as a community, while also supporting a beloved Gainesville institution. Through three years of partnering with the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Florida, we have established a relationship that goes beyond the film festival and seeks to identify other opportunities for creative community collaboration all year long. As we see it, the Gainesville Jewish Film Festival is a win for all whom participate in it!

While we’re a little weary of being at the Hippodrome almost every night for more than a week, we’re thrilled that the Sixth Annual Gainesville Jewish Film Festival, which ran from Sunday, March 13 through Tuesday, March 22 was the best attended festival yet.

The Sixth Annual Gainesville Jewish Film Festival by the numbers:

- 9 days
- 10 screenings
- 12 films
- 5 sold out shows
- 10 full festival pass holders
- 8 half festival pass holders
- 575 seats filled

Many thanks to all the sponsors, discussants, volunteers and guests who made the festival so successful this year.

Thank you to the discussants for facilitating Q & A:
- Dr. Norman Goda, Dr. Abe Goldman,
- Dr. Jack Kugelmass, Rabbi Aharon Notik,
- Dr. Esther Romeyn, Dr. Tamir Sorek,
- Dr. Maureen Turim, and Dr. Gayle Zachmann.

Thank you to all the volunteers for helping to staff the ticket table:
- Joanne Block, Dawn Burgess-Krop, Steve Bobroff, Andy Hirshik, Russ Hirshik, Sharon Hirshik, Dick Howard, Nadav Katz, Heath Lynn Silberfeld, Adam Smith, Ken Wald, and Robin West.
What’s Going on With **PJ Library Gainesville**

**Sunday, April 10**
3 pm

**Searching for Passover: A Day at the Museum of Natural History with PJ Library Gainesville**

To RSVP for these programs, please email Tamara Segal at office@jcnf.org or call 352.371.3846.

For more information about **PJ Library Gainesville** or any of our family events and activities, please contact Debby Kinman-Ford at the B’nai Israel Community Day School (352.376.1508 ext. 110) or Virginia Brissette Hirshik at the Jewish Council (352.371.3846).

**Sunday, May 15**
11 am - 1 pm

**Israeli Independence Day Celebration at the Jordan Glen School in Archer**

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**PJ Library Got Hipp for Purim**

On Sunday, March 20, eighteen families gathered at the Hippodrome Cinema for PJ Library’s Purim themed event timed during the Gainesville Jewish Film Festival. Children and their parents arrived at the Hipp and were greeted by volunteer photographers acting as “PJ Paparazzi.” The children learned about the Four Mitzvot of Purim and were encouraged to give to the fundraiser to benefit pediatric diabetes research at Hadassah Hospital and Shand’s, which raised $200. After a screening of Shalom Sesame’s *Mitzvah on the Street*, guests were treated to a candy “bar” from JR’s Candy Buffet and balloon artists from Fabulous Faces Entertainment.

*Special thanks to Queen Esther, played by Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah President, Meredith Bacharach, and volunteer photographers, Sara Diamond and Dr. Michelle Jensen.*

Photos below: Left: Hannah, G., R., and E. Sokol. Center top: Carolyne and B. Freeman. Center bottom: M. Raines, A. Zaremski, A. Busel. Right: Meredith Bacharach as “Queen Esther” and Tamara Segal as the PJ Library “Top Chef.”
Traveling Synagogues: Seeing the World Through a Jewish Lens

The Choral Synagogue, Moscow

The beautiful Choral Synagogue (photo above) in Moscow is no stranger to controversy. Built in the late 1890s, this neo-classical structure was intended to be constructed near the old Jewish settlement of Zaryadye, but had to be moved a block because Jewish buildings were not permitted on the original site. Different periods of banning worship required the completed dome to be removed, as well as an exterior image of the scrolls of Moses. These were later restored. During the Russian Revolution in 1905, the ban on religions was removed, and the synagogue opened in 1906.

In 1938, Rabbi Medalie served as Chief Rabbi at a time when the practice of religion was a source of constant harassment by the Soviet regime. Accused of maintaining "illegal" relationships with Lubavitch rabbis exiled in Poland, Rabbi Medalie was seized and tried without prosecutor, defense attorneys or witnesses, and shot by firing squad the same day. His sentence was vacated in 1957 for "absence of a crime."

In 1948, Golda Meir paid an unauthorized visit to the Choral Synagogue, to attend Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services, creating an uproar with the Soviet government.

Between 1967 and 1989, the Choral Synagogue was at the center of the Refusenik movement. After Israel's victory in the Six Day War, Jews in the Soviet Union felt inspired to emigrate to Israel. As they were refused permission to leave the Soviet Union, the Refusenik Movement was formed and Soviet Jews became clandestinely active in learning Hebrew, celebrating holidays, and promoting Jewish learning, culture, and identity. The world became involved in recognizing the struggle of refuseniks trapped behind the Iron Curtain the human rights campaign to recognize their rights for religious freedom united Jews across the globe.

Photos and Text by Dawn Burgess-Krop

Traveling Synagogues is inspired by a vacation in Eastern Europe taken by JCNCF President, Dawn Burgess, her husband, Dr. Harry Krop, and companions, Stuart and Charna Cohn.

As we gather on Yom HaShoah to pay our respects to those who perished in the Holocaust, we use this edition of The Chronicle also reflect on those communities. Future editions of The Chronicle will feature photographs and tales of other Jewish community visits. We encourage you to share your stories with us! Please send your anecdotes of your interesting experiences to chronicle@jcncf.org.
The World Through a Jewish Lens

A photo essay that was inspired by a vacation in Eastern Europe taken by JCNCF President, Dawn Burgess-Krop with her husband, Dr. Harry Krop and their traveling companions, Stuart and Charna Cohn.

As we gather on Yom HaShoah to pay our respects to those who perished in the Holocaust, we use this edition of Traveling Synagogues to reflect on those communities.

The Chronicle will feature photographs and tales of other Jewish communities to share your travel stories and anec
dexperiences to chroni-

The Nożyk Synagogue of Warsaw
The Nożyk Synagogue (photo at right) is the only surviving pre-war synagogue in Warsaw. It remains an active synagogue today, having been restored after World War II.

Warsaw boasted one of the largest Jewish communities in the world prior to World War II and had some 400 houses of prayer. Needing a space for worship, merchant Zalman Nożyk financed the synagogue and the location was part of the small ghetto during the days of Warsaw Ghetto in World War II.

In 1941, the Germans used the synagogue to stable their horses. Rebuilt between 1977 and 1983, the Nożyk Synagogue is an active synagogue today.

The Raoul Wallenberg Memorial, Budapest

Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish banker and diplomat, was absolutely fearless and relentless in his mission to save Jews in Hungary from being deported to the death camps. Through cleverness, bribery, and extortion, Wallenberg devised a system of protective passes that allowed Jews to be treated as Swedish citizens. It is said that he even jumped on trains headed to the camps to give out passes and demand that those bearing them be allowed to leave with him. His courage and commitment was legendary.

Wallenberg is honored in Hungary and the Righteous Among Nations at Yad Vashem Memorial in Israel. It is estimated that he may have saved close to 100,000 Jews in Hungary. He was arrested in 1945 by the Russians and was never seen again. Despite many investigations, it is unknown whether he was killed immediately or died in jail. In March 2016, the Swedish Tax Authority ruled that he is "likely to be dead."

Museum of Occupations, Estonia

Estonia suffered many crushing occupations during the 20th century, first by the Soviet Union, then the Nazis and then again by the Soviets. The Estonians responded to the tyranny of the Russian occupation through the spontaneous singing of forbidden national songs. Estonia has a rich choral tradition and folk and music festivals are part of their heritage.

On August 23, 1989, on the 50th anniversary of the Soviet takeover of the Baltic states, 700,000 Estonians joined hands with half a million Latvians and one million Lithuanians across their three countries to protest their occupation and demonstrate their solidarity in song. This "Baltic Chain" was the beginning of the fight for freedom from Soviet rule and is known as the Singing Revolution.

Erich Lessing/Corbis
Honoring Connie Stern: *Mother, Bubbe, Nurse*

Connie Stern continued from page 1

college roommate from Rawling’s Hall was set up on a date through a computerized “match making service” (imagine a giant room-sized computer with punch cards). Karen’s “match” just so happened to be Bob’s roommate, Jerry. Karen and Jerry thought Bob and Connie would be perfect for each other and the rest was history. They had their first date on the last Saturday in October of 1966. In true old South style, Connie and Bob were “lavaliered” and “pinned” before they became engaged and later married on January 3, 1971. Their long-time friend, Harvey Budd, was one of the signers of their ketubah.

Connie and Bob stayed in Gainesville after graduating from UF and both went to work in a retail store near campus. Connie also worked at the Constance Theater Box Office back when they hosted concerts and the day she acquired an “All Area Decal” she thought she had died and gone to heaven.

Below, Connie poses with the special Torah cover that she and a group of women cross stitched for Cong. B’nai Israel.

Alas, a life in rock and roll promotions was not to be for Connie. In 1975, she and Bob became first time parents, and no sooner was Laurie out of diapers, Connie enrolled in a nursing program at Santa Fe College. She finished the program in June of 1979 just in time to give birth to their second child, Amy. That year, Connie started at Shand’s Teaching Hospital, where she worked until they welcomed their third and youngest child, Mark, in 1984.

With 3 children, it was a few years before Connie would return to nursing full time. Instead, she volunteered with hospice, at the children’s schools and discovered Girl Scouting. Connie was part of the first Daisy Troop in Gateway Council in 1984, which she started so Amy could become a scout. Connie recalls with great pride a trip that she and two other leaders led to *Our Cabana* in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Girls from two troops raised money to get there and they cross stitched tea towels with the “Our Cabana song” on them as gifts to the center. At the closing circle of the trip, there was not a dry eye in the house, as the women and girls were so genuinely moved by the friendship and bonding that they had experienced.
Honoring Connie Stern: Friend, Scholar, Leader

Connie’s path to being a Hebrew educator started in 1987, when her good friend, Carol Auerbach suggested that they get their kids involved with the Day School at Congregation B’nai Israel. Connie’s son, Mark, who was 3 at the time, would become one of the students. Not long after, Connie also became a student again when she enrolled in Lester Bogdinoff’s Hebrew class, where the students were expected to help lead a Friday night service at the end of the class.

In the spring of 1990, Connie and a small group of women participated in a B’not Mitzvot preparation class. At that point, Connie was hooked on Jewish learning. She studied with Steve Nagler and learned how to chant haftarah “the right way.” From the beginning, she wanted to understand and learn the trope, not just memorize the tune from a recording.

A few years later, her friend Donna Land suggested that she work with her son, Brett to help him prepare for his Bar Mitzvah. Connie took him on as her first student and she and Libby Brateman helped lead Brett’s Bar Mitzvah in 1998. Over 100 students later, Connie still tutors and loves the opportunity to “plant kindly Judaic seeds” that will take root and grow, knowing that the “blossoming” may not manifest immediately. She believes that the energy she puts into her students is an investment in the future of the Jewish people.

As Connie eyes the finish line of her work life and contemplates retirement from nursing at North Florida after 25 years of service, she looks forward to spending time with her grandbabies and she is taking on a new leadership role in the community. After serving as Treasurer and Vice President of the Board of Trustees for Congregation B’nai Israel, Connie is slated to become the next president. With her incredible resume of volunteerism and endless enthusiasm for all things Jewish, Connie is ready and able for the task. We are grateful for her friendship, scholarship and leadership in our community. May we be blessed with her service for many more years.

Connie’s dedicated service to the Jewish community seems to know no bounds. She and Bob are dual members at Temple Shir Shalom and she has tutored many of their students, as well. She has been part of the singing group, Kol Hadash, and served as an officer in B’nai’s Sisterhood and the Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah. She works with B’nai’s bikur cholim program and coordinates the community’s chevra kadisha services for women. She served on the JCNCF Maimonides Society Board and has sponsored and delivered many Shalom Baby Bags.

Always willing to serve as the gabbai, Connie looks on with Rabbi David Kaiman as Emily Rich reads Torah.

As Connie eyes the finish line of her work life and contemplates retirement from nursing at North Florida after 25 years of service, she looks forward to spending time with her grandbabies and she is taking on a new leadership role in the community. After serving as Treasurer and Vice President of the Board of Trustees for Congregation B’nai Israel, Connie is slated to become the next president. With her incredible resume of volunteerism and endless enthusiasm for all things Jewish, Connie is ready and able for the task. We are grateful for her friendship, scholarship and leadership in our community. May we be blessed with her service for many more years.

Connie poses with other president-elect leaders at the US CJ Sulam conference in P earlstone, Maryland.
# Community Passover Seders

Passover begins at sundown on Friday, April 22. Please confirm times, pricing and RSVP details with individual congregations. Community contact information is included on page 14.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala</th>
<th>Congregation B’nai Israel</th>
<th>Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student &amp; Community Center</th>
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<td>Friday, April 22 at 6 pm</td>
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<td>Royal Oaks Golf Club</td>
<td>“VOTE FOR MOSES” SEDER</td>
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<td>11220 SW 69th Circle in Oak Run</td>
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<td>Members $30</td>
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<td>Non Members $35</td>
<td>Children ages 4 - 8 $10</td>
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<td>Your information, please contact:</td>
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<td>All are welcome to attend Gainesville’s largest</td>
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<td>Estelle Magidson at 352.861.2542</td>
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<td>Passover celebrations! Join us</td>
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<td>or Sonia Peterson at 352.307.3662</td>
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<td>with your friends and family for warm</td>
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<td>RSVP on or before April 18</td>
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<td>and traditional Seders. Donations for</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 22 at 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Friday, April 22 at 6 pm</td>
<td>Saturday, April 23 at 6 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Seder</td>
<td>Annual Community Seder</td>
<td>Members $30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 23 at 5:30 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-member $40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s Seder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call 352.291.2218 to RSVP.</td>
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<td>RSVP by April 19</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>to Bob Fries at 352.304.8903 or</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bobfries1940@gmail.com">bobfries1940@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Congregation Beth Sholom of Citrus County</th>
<th>UF Hillel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 22 at 6 pm</td>
<td>Friday, April 22 at 7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kosher Seder in Kellner Auditorium</td>
<td>First Seder Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult $30, under 13 $15</td>
<td>Sponsored in part by Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity. Dinner is free to the community. Please go to <a href="http://tinyurl.com/UFSeder2016">http://tinyurl.com/UFSeder2016</a> to RSVP for the seder.</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSVP deadline April 14</td>
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BHAKTI COHEN, Ed.S.
LICENSED MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPIST
Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator
Collaborative Divorce Coach & Child Specialist
Parenting Coordinator

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www.bhakticohen.com

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352-494-2695
godoreo@gmail.com
In Memoriam
Our community mourns the passing of these beloved friends and family members:

Shirley Bilsky, Shirley Vogel

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.

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.

Mazel tov to the Goldman family! Rabbi Berl and Chanie and the Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish Student & Community Center were named Ally of the Year by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee for Israel advocacy on campus. The Goldmans were honored on March 21 at AIPAC’s annual conference in Washington, D.C.

Mazel tov to Boruch Schneur “Boshy” Goldman (photo at right) on his upshernish, (haircutting ceremony) on Sunday, April 3.

Mazel tov to Tamara Smith, wife of JCNCF Board member, Adam Smith, for matching into the University of Florida’s medical residency program in July 2016 and the radiation oncology program at the Ohio State University in July 2017.

Mazel tov to Howard Freeman, Robyn Katz, and Anne Koterba who were all nominated for the Spirit of Gainesville Award. The awards, sponsored by The Gainesville Sun and Gainesville Magazine, recognize those who stand out for their dedication to creating a better community in six categories: Community Service, Arts, Education, Entrepreneurship, Medicine and Youth.

Mazel tov to Randi Elrad and Lori Emmer McGriff for being recognized as Women Who Make A Difference by the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council. Elrad and McGriff will be honored at a luncheon in May.

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Honor a Bar or Bat Mitzvah and help a child in Israel!
Consider making a gift in their honor to the Beit Ruth Village for Girls or the Beit Shemesh Center for Boys through JCNCF’s partnership with the Jaffa Institute in Israel.
Call or email JCNCF for details.

In Memoriam
Our community mourns the passing of these beloved friends and family members:

Shirley Bilsky, Shirley Vogel

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.

Jeremy S. Melker, MD
Garrett Hauptman, MD
Mary Anne Pinner, AuD
Lynn Davis, AuD

GAINESVILLE ENT & ALLERGY ASSOCIATES
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Gainesville, FL 32605
352-331-0090
www.gainesville-entandallergy.com

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Pre K - 8th Grade

info@jordanglen.org
visit us online: www.jordanglen.org
Or call: 495-1222
North Central Florida Congregations & Organizations

Gainesville

Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Florida (CJS)
Dr. Jack Kugelmass, Director
Sandra James, Office Assistant
web.jst.ufl.edu
PO Box 118020, Gainesville, FL 32611
352.392.9247

Congregation B’nai Israel (CBI)
Rabbi David Kaiman
Jennifer Petrescu, Executive Director
Suzanne Chester, Chavaya (Religious Education) Director
Stephanie Savage, Programs
www.bnaigainesville.com
3830 NW 16th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32605
352.376.1508

Congregation B’nai Israel Community Day School (DS)
Debby Kinman-Ford, Director
www.bnaisraelclds.org
352.376.1508, ext 101

Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah (HAD)
Meredith Bacharach, President
mwbacharach@gmail.com
352.256.7631

Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida (LIB)
Dr. Rebecca Jefferson, Director
cms.uflib.ufl.edu/Judaica/Index.aspx
George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
352.273.2865

The Tabacinic Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student & Community Center (LCJC)
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
Debbie Boada, Religious School Principal
Ann Eisenstadt, Office Manager
www.shirshalom.net
3855 NW 8th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32605
352.371.6399

UF Hillel (HLL)
Rabbi Adam Grossman
www.ufhillel.org
2020 W University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32603
352.372.2900

Ocala and Surrounding Locations

Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Center of Marion County & The Villages (CLJC)
Rabbi Yossi & Chanie Hecht, Directors
www.jewishmarion.org
3500 SW 34th Avenue Circle, 34474
352.291.2218

Congregation Beth Israel (CBI-O)
Rabbi Karen Allen
www.bethisraelocala.org
7171 SW Hwy 200, 34476
352.450.2056

Congregation Beth Sholom (CBS)
Hazzan Mordecai Kamlot
www.bethsholomcitrus.org
102 Civic Circle
Beverly Hills, FL 34464
352.746.5303

Temple Beth Shalom (TBS)
Rabbi Ze’ev Harari
www.jewishocala.com
1109 NE 8th Avenue, 34470
352.629.5837

Temple B’nai Darom (TBD)
Rabbi Harold Jaye
www.facebook.com/TempleBnaiDarom
49 Banyan Course, 34472
352.624.0380

Temple Shalom of Central Florida (TSCF)
Sheldon Skurow, Spiritual Leader
www.templeshalomcentralfl.org
13563 County Road 101, Oxford, FL 34484
352.748.1800

CELEBRATE 68
JCNCF and Jordan Glen School & Summer Camp
Invite You to An
Israel Day Celebration
Sunday, May 15 - 11 am to 1 pm
Jewish Community Calendar for April 2016

Friday, April 1
♦ CBI Yiddish class, 9:30 am
♦ TSS Sisterhood Shabbat with Joe and Lynn Goldovitz, cantorial duet, 6:30 pm
♦ HLL Shabbat Talk featuring Randy Kramer and special quest LGBTQ community service, 6:30 pm, Dinner 7:30 pm

Monday, April 4
♦ CBI Israeli Folk Dancing, 7:15 pm

Tuesday, April 5
♦ TSS Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph, 9:30 am
♦ CBI Torah on Tuesday with Rabbi Kaiman, 12 pm

Wednesday, April 6
♦ CBI Friendship Circle, 10:30 am
♦ CBI Yoga with Chaya, 5:30 pm
♦ CBI Hebrew Class, 6:30 pm
♦ JCNCF Caregivers Support Group, 7 pm. For location and more information, please contact Lori Waxenberg at loribwax@gmail.com.

Friday, April 8
♦ CBI Yiddish class, 9:30 am
♦ HLL Traditional Shabbat Service 6:30, dinner 7:30 PM

Sunday, April 10
♦ LCJC “A Funny Thing Happened to Me On The Way to the White House” with David Nesenoff, 10:30 am
♦ PJ Library Passover Scavenger Hunt at the Natural History Museum, 3 pm
♦ CBI New Moon Yoga with Erin, 6pm

Monday, April 11
♦ CBI Israeli Folk Dancing, 7:15 pm

Tuesday, April 12
♦ TSS Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph, 9:30 am
♦ CBI Rosh Hodesh Reb Shaya Isenberg, “From Age-ing to Sage-ing,” 10 am
♦ CBI Torah on Tuesday with Rabbi Kaiman, 12 pm

Wednesday, April 13
♦ CBI Friendship Circle, 10:30 am

Friday, April 15
♦ CBI Yoga with Chaya, 5:30 pm
♦ CBI Hebrew Class, 6:30 pm
♦ Hadassah Book Club at CBI, 7 pm. The group will discuss “Americanah” by Chimimanda Ngozi Adichie.

Friday, April 18
♦ CBI Yiddish class, 9:30 am
♦ HLL Food Truck Shabbat, 6:30pm service, Dinner 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 16
♦ CBI Baby Musica with Karen Cohen, 11 am

Sunday, April 17
♦ An evening to Honor Connie Stern, Sr. Rec. Center RSVP by April 8, 6-10 pm

Monday, April 18
♦ CBI Israeli Folk Dancing, 7:15 pm

Tuesday, April 19
♦ TSS Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph, 9:30 am
♦ CBI Torah on Tuesday with Rabbi Kaiman, 12 pm

Wednesday, April 20
♦ CBI Friendship Circle, 10:30 am
♦ CBI Yoga with Chaya, 5:30 pm
♦ CBI Hebrew class, 6:30 pm

Friday, April 22 Erev Passover 1st Seder - see page 12
♦ CBI Yiddish class, 9:30 am

Saturday, April 23 First Day of Passover - see page 12
Monday, April 25
♦ CBI Israeli Folk Dancing, 7:15 pm

Tuesday, April 26
♦ TSS Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph, 9:30 am
♦ CBI Torah on Tuesday with Rabbi Kaiman, 12 pm

Wednesday, April 27
♦ CBI Friendship Circle, 10:30 am
♦ CBI Yoga with Chaya, 5:30 pm
♦ CBI Hebrew class, 6:30 pm

Friday, April 29
♦ CBI Yiddish class, 9:30 am

Saturday, April 30 Eighth Day of Passover
Highlights from This Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yom HaShoah</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>PJ Library Spotlight &amp; Activities</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honoring Connie Stern</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Traveling Synagogues</td>
<td>8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer with JCNCF</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Honoring Connie Stern continued</td>
<td>10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Campaign</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Community Passover Seders</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yom HaShoah continued</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Transitions</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel in Brief</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Community Calendar for April</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Save These Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHEN</th>
<th>JCNCF PROGRAMS &amp; EVENTS</th>
<th>WHERE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 6, 7 pm</td>
<td>Caregivers Support Group</td>
<td>JCNCF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 10, 3 pm</td>
<td>PJ Library Passover Scavenger Hunt</td>
<td>Museum of Natural History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 28, 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Helping Hands Clinic</td>
<td>Helping Hands Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 1, 7 pm</td>
<td>Yom HaShoah Remembrance Event</td>
<td>Congregation B’nai Israel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 15, 11 am - 1 pm</td>
<td>Israeli Independence Day Celebration</td>
<td>Jordan Glen School in Archer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 26 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Helping Hands Clinic</td>
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