Monday, October 28 is No Place For Hate Day

Monday, October 28 is national “No Place for Hate” Day and the Jewish Council and Congregation B’nai Israel are proud to host Lonny Wilk of the Anti-Defamation League for two important talks. Community members are invited to Congregation B’nai Israel at 6 pm for The Current State Of Anti-Semitism: Zero Hour Or Zero-Sum Game? And at 7:30, Wilk will lead Why Me? Standing Up To Anti-Semitism And All Bigotry, a workshop for families on what they can do to help children stand up to hate.

This programming has been developed, in part, as a response to Anti-Semitic bullying experienced by local children in Alachua County public schools. In April and May of this year, Jewish community members met with representatives from the Alachua County School Board to address their concerns about hateful incidents that had been reported. The School Board was very responsive to these concerns, and over the summer, developed strategies to address them. On Tuesday, October 29, the ACSB will provide 50 teachers with the opportunity to participate in a training session called Echoes and Reflections, which will be led by scholars from Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. The School Board has also outlined additions to the curriculum and other social/behavioral strategies for addressing these issues. These programs come just after October 27, which is the first anniversary of the Pittsburgh shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue, where 11 people were murdered and 6 were injured.

Both of the ADL talks are free and open to the community. For more information or to RSVP, please contact the Jewish Council at 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org.

JCNCF’s 11th Community Mitzvah Day, Sunday, November 17

On Sunday, November 17, the Gainesville Jewish Community will gather for North Central Florida’s eleventh Mitzvah Day.

Please join us in supporting the local non-profits that support our community and its most vulnerable residents. A full list of projects and partner organizations will be published in the November edition of The Chronicle.

BELEIVE THERE IS GOOD IN THE WORLD

Registration and Breakfast
Start at 8:30 am at UF Hillel
2020 W University Ave
Opening remarks by
Marcia Conwell, President & CEO
Bread of The Mighty Food Bank

Mitzvah Day
17th November 2019

How You Can Help!

Sign up for a Mitzvah Day Project
Encourage others to join you
Donate supplies for a project
Make a monetary donation to JCNCF designated to support Mitzvah Day
Share Gainesville’s 11th Mitzvah Day on social media
Learn more about our partner charities and continue to support them all year long!
**Together we can do extraordinary things!**

Visit www.jcncf.org to make your secure donation online now, or contact us at 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org.

The Jewish Council of North Central Florida operates entirely on the contributions of generous community members like YOU! With that in mind, the JCNCF events that you see listed in this newsletter each month are made possible by those donations. Please consider making a gift to the Annual Campaign or to any of our special funds. Your donation supports Jewish causes locally and globally and means so much to so many.

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

**JCNCF Mission Statement**

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

**Submissions Policy**

News and announcements of events that are of interest and open to the entire Jewish community will be included as space allows. The times and places of regular and special Jewish religious events, as well as Jewish organizational events, will be placed in the Chronicle’s monthly community calendar.

Please submit original material of 500 words or less, not published or to be published elsewhere, along with photos of interest to the community. Submissions may be e-mailed in Word document format to chronicle@jcncf.org; or dropped off at the Jewish Council of North Central Florida office. Please submit photos in high resolution with a caption identifying the subject and all people depicted. JCNCF reserves the right to edit all submissions. The Chronicle does not publish letters to the editor.

The Chronicle and the Jewish Council do not endorse the goods and services advertised in these pages, and make no representation as to the kashrut of the food, products, and services in such advertising.

If you have any questions, email chronicle@jcncf.org or call 352.371.3846.

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

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PO Box 357936
Gainesville, FL 32635-7936
office: 352.371.3846

www.JCNCF.org - chronicle@jcncf.org

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JCNCF’s Youth Experience Scholarship

By Carter, Adam, and Kara Stein,

Thanks to JCNCF, this past summer our son Carter was able to attend his third year at Camp Shalom, a wonderfully amazing Jewish sleepaway camp right here in central Florida. Carter enjoys going to camp there and having the opportunity to spend lots of time with other kids that share his religious background. He gets to experience a life of semi-independence and in his words on the letter he sent home this summer “I am having so much fun, I have water sports.” In addition to the water sports, he got to go horseback riding, zip-lining, rock climbing, and of course, an all time favorite - staying up late. Celebrating Shabbat on Friday evenings with such an amazing group of people and amazing energy is a memory he will forever have.

As part of the essay he wrote to receive his scholarship, Carter stated how much PJ Library has meant to him over the years and his love for running, so we combined these two and have put together a GoFundMe to raise money for PJ Library called Carters Miles for Books. We hope that you will share or donate to and spread the word about this amazing program.

JCNCF is Offering Youth Experience Scholarships Again This Year

The Jewish Council of North Central Florida (JCNCF) is proud to be awarding scholarships to individuals between the ages of 10 to 21 who reside in North Central Florida. Individuals are encouraged to apply for scholarships to attend qualified not-for-profit Jewish Youth Experience programs.

The program must be an out of town experience that ends by August 31, 2020. The deadline for application submissions is December 1, 2019. Applications can be downloaded at www.jcncf.org/services.

Some of the criteria used in selecting scholarship recipients would include: Demonstrated interest, achievement, and leadership in Jewish education (Religious School, Bar/Bat/B’nai Mitzvah, Jewish Youth Groups, Mitzvah Projects, etc.), reason(s) for attending the Youth Experience Program selected, involvement in community service organizations and/or projects, and financial need.

Recipients will be required to do one follow up activity after their experiences.
Schonwald Correspondence Gift to Judaica Library

By Katalin Rac, Library Coordinator for Jewish Heritage, Price Library of Judaica

A small and precious gem with a long, trans-continental, and emotional history was gifted to the Price Library of Judaica at the beginning of this year. Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Florida, Kenneth Wald donated a family correspondence dated 1939-1941. It contains probably the last letters sent by his grandparents, Curt and Regina Schönwald, to his father, Henry Wald. His grandparents, who were still living in Berlin, were hoping to find an escape route from the Nazi terror and to join Henry in America in his new home in Lincoln, Nebraska. After that became impossible, they considered Cuba.

Professor Kenneth Wald had no knowledge of the existence of these letters until after his father’s death: he discovered them while arranging his late father’s papers. He had them translated and began a quest for more information about the history of the family leading him to the town of Grossröhrsdorf where his grandparents owned and operated a department store. Curt and Regina Schönwald were forced to give up the store and their possessions at the beginning of the War and subsequently moved to Berlin. They were deported on March 28, 1942 to Trawniki camp near Lublin in Poland and afterwards could not be traced.

In Grossröhrsdorf, Professor Wald’s research has also met local interest in studying the wartime history of the town. In the meantime, and on the other side of the Atlantic, Professor Wald published an essay on his grandparents and his determination to preserve their memory. This essay inspired high-school drama teacher and playwright Christopher Maly in Lincoln to write a play using the Schönwalds’ letters. The play, The Ghosts on the Wall, found additional audiences as this April it was put on stage in Gainesville, Florida, at the Actor’s Warehouse.

The donation of these letters to the Price Library opens a new chapter in their history. Arranged together with English translations in the Schönwald Family Correspondence, they are available for students, researchers, and general readers seeking to learn about the story of the Schönwalds as narrated in their letters, the history of the Holocaust, and the 20th-century history of Jewish immigration to the US.

This article was previously published in Collectanea, Summer 2019, Vol. 3, No. 2, the e-newsletter of the Price Library of Judaica at UF

An Afternoon with Holocaust Survivor Sami Steigmann

Sunday, October 20 at 1 pm
The Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Center of Ocala and The Villages

As a Jew from Czernowitz, Sami’s life story is remarkable. He was born on December 21, 1939. From 1941 through 1944, he was with his parents in the Ukraine at Mogilev-Podolsky, a labor camp in an area called Transnistria. Subjected to Nazi medical experimentation, his life was saved by a German woman when he was dying of starvation. The camp was liberated by the Red Army and he grew up in Transylvania. In 1961, he immigrated to Israel and served in the Israeli Air Force.

Steigmann will share his story about life in a Nazi labor camp, the medical experiments he was subjected to, how he survived and the many lessons he’s learned throughout his life.

Listen to his first-hand account of a dark period of recent history and be inspired by a story of resilience and the ability to overcome the greatest difficulties. This is a once in a lifetime event. This event is free, but donations are appreciated.

RSVP required at www.ourchabad.org/sami
The Ghosts on the Wall, a play based on the letters of Curt and Regina Schönwald, will premier at the Actors’ Warehouse on Friday, November 15 and run through Thursday, November 24, 2019.

This intimate portrayal of the Schönwald family’s experience during the Holocaust came to be when the author of the play, Chris Maly, read an essay discussing letters written between the Schönwalds and their son published in 2012 by Curt and Regina’s grandson, Dr. Ken Wald.

Chris is a high school history teacher in Dr. Wald’s home town of Lincoln, Nebraska. He was inspired, not only by the Schönwald family story, but also by the experiences of his grandfather, who was a liberator in WWII. Chris had previously written a play about Emmet Till which won the prestigious Trenholm Award from the National Education Association.

The first performance of Ghosts in Gainesville was part of JCNCF’s 2019 Holocaust Remembrance Program, which was attended by over 200 people. Thank you to the Actors’ Warehouse for bringing this important and moving production to the wider Gainesville community.
Traditions & Changes at The Center For Jewish Studies

By Heath Lynn Silberfeld

Good news for the Jewish community here and afar: Norman J. W. Goda, Ph.D., is now the Director of the Center for Jewish Studies (the CJS) at the University of Florida. He remains the Norman and Irma Braman Chair for Holocaust Studies and will continue his research, writing, and teaching while continuing and expanding the scope and impact of the CJS.

Dr. Goda wasn’t looking for a new position, but due to his deep belief in the importance of the CJS, he accepted the opportunity. He proudly points out that UF is Florida’s flagship university, and that the CJS is the most important and most developed Jewish Studies program in Florida, as well as among the best in the country. Prior to arriving at UF in 2009, Dr. Goda was chair of the Department of History at Ohio University, so he has administrative experience in addition to years of faculty work steeped in teaching, research, and writing.

Dr. Goda grew up in Washington, DC, and was bar mitzvahed in a Conservative synagogue. He obtained his BA in History and English at Rice University. He completed his MS and PhD at UNC Chapel Hill. He and his wife, Gwyneth, and their two “fine young sons” recently returned refreshed from sabbatical in France, where Dr. Goda continued his research on the 1987 trial of Klaus Barbie.

Dr. Goda already has three explicit initiatives in motion: a new faculty hire for Israel Studies; a graduate-level certificate in Holocaust Studies, related to any discipline at the MA and PhD levels; and a BA-level certificate in Israel Studies. Interestingly, the graduate certificate program will be open to non-degree-seeking students. Longer-term goals he is considering are online courses and streaming of some lectures.

“Jews need to be aware of themselves and the depth of Jewish history and culture due to the growing issue of anti-Semitism on both the right and the left. And ambivalence regarding Israel has, of course, become more vocal in recent years.” Thus, CJS programs evolve in order to respond to current events and research. “And if you’re not building, you’re going in reverse.” Unlike the majority of other departments and programs at UF, the CJS receives no funding from UF other than for salaries and relies in large part on donors, small and large, for programming and research.

The CJS has accomplished a great deal despite limited funding from UF and is very appreciative of outside gifts. Fortunately, the Center has been entrusted “by some very good people throughout the state with providing academic study and instruction focused on global Jewish traditions, history, literature, art, and politics.” Donors small and large have provided monetary gifts for, among other activities, course development and the future Israel Studies program.

The best way to make a donation is by writing directly to Dr. Goda. Based on his personal approach to communicating with donors, you will find that “If you make a gift to the center, you are part of the Center for Jewish Studies family.” He would like to hear from the community about how the CJS programs are meeting needs and about how to get the next generation involved.

The CJS would not be what it is without the JCNCF community and the numerous programs that are partnerships between the JCNCF and the CJS. The CJS develops and delivers programs that are critical to the well-being, continuing education, and richness of the Jewish community, and the community supports CJS programs that include lectures, seminars, musical presentations, workshops, and the annual Gainesville Jewish Film Festival (the JFF), going into its tenth year. All faculty participate in the selection, presentation, and post-screening discussions that are a mainstay of the JFF, and the festival tends to be the most well-attended CJS/JCNCF program, with attendance at the curated dramas, comedies, and documentaries increasing every year. Another community-oriented adult education program that is being developed in collaboration with Oak Hammock is entitled “The State of Hatred 2020.” In addition, senior citizens (over age 60) can apply to audit CJS classes. Everyone benefits from this symbiotic relationship with the Jewish community of Gainesville and throughout Florida.

The reach of the CJS is also worldwide. Students have traveled, studied, and conducted research abroad, some on scholarships based on need or interest. They have gone to France to study with faculty, have spent time in Israel to learn Hebrew, and have conducted research on topics ranging broadly from the Palestine Mandate, to various aspects of the Holocaust, to Jews in Medieval Spain. The CJS remains a supporting member of the Association for Jewish Studies, and several faculty attend the organization’s conference annually to present papers and participate in roundtables.

Dr. Goda is proud of the way that the CJS maintains the interest of the community, and he appreciates hearing directly from community members about the programs they have attended and what might serve them as well or better. If you have feedback or suggestions or requests, contact him directly at goda@ufl.edu. He’ll be unreservedly happy to hear from you.
Sister Cities Program Looks to Continue Building Bridges

By Steve Kalishman, Director,
Sister City Program of Gainesville, Inc.

In 1997, the deputy mayor of Kfar Saba, Israel, came to Gainesville with the mayor of the neighboring Palestinian city of Qalqilya to seek the assistance of UF in obtaining a USAID grant to build a water treatment plant between their cities. At that time relations were relatively normal, with many Kfar Saba residents going to Qalqilya for shopping, dinner and car repairs, and many Qalqilya residents going to Kfar Saba for work.

Gainesville Mayor Bruce Delaney, who had just returned from a visit to our Russian sister city of Novorossiisk, proposed a three-way sister city relationship with Gainesville, Kfar Saba and Qalqilya. The mayor and deputy mayor said it might work if Gainesville were willing to invite both.

The following year, the Gainesville City Commission unanimously passed a resolution inviting Kfar Saba and Qalqilya to join Gainesville in the first tri-lateral US/Israeli/Palestinian sister city program. The resolution was hand delivered to the mayors of Kfar Saba and Qalqilya by Gainesville Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan, who led a 10-member delegation including UF law professors to the region. The group was warmly received in both cities, and a sister city agreement was signed.

In July, 2000, a reciprocal delegation from Kfar Saba and Qalqilya travelled together to Gainesville to learn about our city, to meet with counterparts, and to bring a message of peace and reconciliation. They spoke at Rotary clubs, in schools, synagogues, churches, and mosques; at the City Commission meeting; and at various other civic events.

At the same time, Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Chairman Yasser Arafat were in Washington meeting with President Clinton to try to arrive at a final status agreement. Our Israeli and Palestinian delegations and supporters were hoping and praying for an agreement, so we could move forward with our comprehensive cultural and educational exchange program, and create a model for other U.S./Israeli and Palestinian cities to follow.

Unfortunately, no agreement was reached, and two months later, the second intifada began, followed by the building of the Israeli security wall. Since then relations between Kfar Saba and Qalqilya have practically ended, although the sister city program has continued on a “dual-track” basis (Gainesville/Kfar Saba and Gainesville/Qalqilya).

Kfar Saba Mayor Rafi Saar has recently expressed a keen interest in reviving and expanding contacts between Gainesville and Kfar Saba counterparts to conduct mutually-beneficial exchanges and collaborative projects. Anyone interested in being involved is encouraged to contact me about participating in delegations and other exchanges and projects. The next trips are planned for November 1-10, 2019, and February 1-9, 2020.

Why Isn’t There a Jewish Choir in North Central Florida?

There IS – starting January 22, 2020!

A few interested people got together and formed the ShabbaTones Chorus, a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, in order to offer to those who love to sing the opportunity to join together and explore the rich repertoire of Jewish choral music. Jewish choral music is rarely performed in North Central Florida and we would like to change that.

The choir will meet Wednesdays at 7pm at a location still to be determined. Singers will be auditioned at the first meeting on January 22, 2020. Interested singers should come prepared to sing a simple song and a few scales. Choir repertoire will be in both easy Hebrew and English. Singers of any denomination are welcome.

Dr. Will Kesling has agreed to be the choir conductor. Dr. Kesling is a choral professor in the UF School of Music and recently was an Israeli Faculty Fellow in Israel. The choir is extremely lucky to have such a nationally and internationally recognized conductor! The current officers on the Board of Directors are Jesse Lipnick (President), Dick Sadove (Vice President), and Elaine Jacobson (Treasurer).

At this time, we are asking the Jewish community, singers and non-singers, to help support the choir by sending a tax-deductible donation to ShabbaTones Chorus Inc, 2436 NW 37th Ter, Gainesville FL 32605. Checks should be made out to ShabbaTones Chorus Inc. Your donations will help us pay our conductor, our accompanist, and secure choral music. Please help us get the choir started with a secure financial foothold. Questions about the choir? Please email ShabbaTonesFL@gmail.com.
Chavaya is Guided by Jewish Creativity

By Shauna Sikron, Coordinator of Jewish Learning
Congregation B’nai Israel

Last year, students in Congregation B’nai Israel’s Hebrew school (known as Chavaya) focused on doing more acts of kindness in the community. Our school collected tzedakah for the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank, made meals for the St. Francis House, stuffed bear dolls for children of Peaceful Paths and for dogs at the Alachua County Humane Society.

This year, while we continue to do good deeds, our curriculum will be guided by the themes of Jewish creativity and innovation. With support from the JCNCF, we are developing our Arts program. Throughout the coming year, each of our classes will be guided through the process of making a film inspired by an aspect of their Jewish community. As a creative project, we hope to connect our students to Jewish life in both traditional and novel ways. In addition to this film project, we will also strengthen our musical program with the guidance of our guest music educator, Dani Vaknin.

Of course, Chavaya students will continue to study Hebrew, experience the many holidays of the Jewish year, and most of all, build friendships with other Jewish youth in the Gainesville community through learning and play.

I welcome those interested in learning more about Chavaya to visit our comprehensive Hebrew School page on the B’nai Israel website. Registration information, expectations for each class, details of the curriculum, teacher biographies and more, can all be found on our webpage: http://www.bnaigainesville.com/about-chavaya/.

PJ Library Is On the Move!

By Debby Kinman-Ford, Coordinator
PJ Library North Central Florida

With a new year up and running, PJ Library started big with a holiday program in conjunction with Congregation B’nai Israel. We hosted a series of activities with Jewish educator and musician, Emily Teck! We kicked off the weekend with a Kiddos Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner for over 130 people! We are continuing to offer our PJ Lending Library outside of B’nai Israel as well. There has been a lot of book traffic over the summer with books flying in and out of the little blue house. Stop by and grab a book! Next up, we sent out postcards of all our upcoming fall events. In October, we are making edible Torahs at Temple Shir Shalom followed by our annual Mitzvah Day event on Sunday, November 17 at UF Hillel. After that we are also hosting a Hanukkah program with UF Chabad. We have also partnered with Gainesville Jewish Parents and started a Pop-Up Playgroup that is meeting on two Sunday mornings a month around the community. The group is for families with children ages birth-5 years old. For more information, please contact JCNCF at 352.371.3846.

We are always looking for ideas for PJ Library activities that we can offer. If you would like to host a pop-up program, such as an early Shabbos at the park or One Love Café or a playgroup, please contact Debby Kinman-Ford, PJ Library Coordinator at 352.376.1508 ext. 101. We have seed money we would love to use toward community generated PJ Library programs that happen more from a grassroots effort. Give us a call if you have a recurring or one-time activity you would like to coordinate, we would love to hear your ideas. We are happy to help supply funds for food, supplies and do the marketing for the program.
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:

Elaine Robins,
Mother of Dale, Jane, and Mark
Grandmother of Alison

Benjamin Eisenstadt,
Father of Bill and Ann Eisenstadt,
Grandfather of Abigail and Sarah

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.

Mazel tov to Andrew and Sharon Hirshik! This summer they celebrated 50 years of marriage! This was an extra special treat for the whole Shir Shalom congregation, as well as Andrew and Sharon’s friends and extended family in the community, as they chose to celebrate by sponsoring a Rock’n Shabbat with Joe and Lynn Goldovitz at Temple Shir Shalom.

Mazel tov to Jeff and Robin Davis and the whole Davis family on 50 years of marriage!
Gainesville Congregations & Organizations

Gainesville

B’nai Israel Community Day School (DS)
Debby Kinman-Ford, Director
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
Diamond Hadley, Administrative Communications Specialist
www.bnaigainesville.com
3830 NW 16th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32605
352.376.1508

Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah (HAD)
Meredith Bacharach, President
mwbacharach@gmail.com
352.256.7631.0

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
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352.336.5877

Temple Shir Shalom (TSS)
Rabbi Michael Joseph
Ross Van Boven, Director of Religious School
Ann Eisenstadt, Office Manager
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352.371.6399

UF Hillel (HLL)
Rabbi Jonah Zinn
www.ufhillel.org
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Ocala & Other Locations
Chabad House of Ocala & The Villages (CHOV)
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www.ourchabad.org
13030 CR 103, Oxford, FL 34484
352.330.4466

Congregation Beth Israel (CBI-O)
Mary Chang, President
www.bethisraelocala.org
4511 SW 48th St. Ocala, FL 34474
352.450.2056

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)
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Save These Dates

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<td>Monday, October 28, 6 &amp; 7:30 pm</td>
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