JCNCF Looks Forward to Another Busy Program Year

By Virginia Brissette Hirshik
President & CEO, JCNCF

The summer issue of The Chronicle is always a treat to produce. Since its production occurs after most of our regular program year has passed, we have more time to create a 16-page issue filled with photos and “thank yous” to the many sponsors, volunteers and community partners who made some of our recent events possible. The Jewish Council is grateful to these individuals, organizations and businesses for their support.

We’re also including some previews of events and programs scheduled for the fall. Mark your calendar for the weekend of October 22, when JCNCF welcomes Barbara Ribakove Gordon, Founder and Executive Director of the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry. Ms. Gordon traveled to Ethiopia on the first American mission to Ethiopian Jewish villages in 1981 and has spent the last 40 years working tirelessly on their behalf.

Be sure to save the date for Sunday, October 29 when JCNCF will celebrate the Jaffa Institute’s 35th Anniversary. Since the late 1990s, the Jewish community of North Central Florida has enjoyed a close relationship with this Israeli social service agency which provides critical educational, recreational and social enrichment programs for great Tel Aviv’s most vulnerable populations. We look forward to the opportunity to honor their work and those in this community whom have supported their mission. Check out our feature article on the Jaffa Institute on pages 8 and 9.

JCNCF’s Mitzvah Day is slated for Sunday, November 19, so start collecting those hotel toiletries as you travel this summer! As always, our annual day of service for the Gainesville community will include many projects that benefit partner charities in North Central Florida and beyond.

We’re also excited about our project to collect and display artifacts related to families of local Holocaust survivors, which will be exhibited as part of the JCNCF’s annual Yom HaShoah community remembrance in April 2018. Look for more information about this year-long project on page 4.

We hope you have enjoyed JCNCF’s community offerings this year. Our successful programs are made possible by the relationships we have developed, the resources we have shared and the generous support from our donors. To all those whom have donated to our Annual Campaign, thank you for helping us build the wonderful, dynamic Jewish community of North Central Florida!

Tikkun Olam with the Freeman Family

By William Alford
Assistant Director, JCNCF

This February, at the Sixth Annual Gainesville Spirit Awards, the Freeman family was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for hard work dedicated to helping others. As many of you may know, the Freeman family are the founders of a local nonprofit with a massive reach in medical research and care, Stop Children’s Cancer. Since its formation in 1981, Stop Children’s Cancer has raised over $7 million dollars to fund pediatric cancer research. Those funds have have also provided seed money for many grant proposals attracting exponentially more funding and expanding the impact of this home-grown mission committed to the prevention, control and cure of cancer in children.

I sat down with Laurel Freeman to discuss the story of how this organization was born from tragic circumstances. We discussed how it has grown into a beautiful and flourishing legacy that her daughter Bonnie had envisioned; which the whole Freeman family has continued. I left our meeting with a deeper understanding of the uniquely personal and inspiring origins of their nonprofit. I was also left pondering the complexity of the paths that lead us to great joy and great adversity ... and how one event can change a perspective or destiny.

This thought took hold after Laurel recounted to me the curious story of how she and Howard met. It was 1964 and they were both living in South Florida. Howard, who was born in Miami and grew up in West Palm Beach would soon be attending the University of Florida. Laurel’s mother, a single mom, had relocated to the West Palm area in 1960 to be closer to Laurel’s grandmother.

One afternoon, Laurel’s mother saw an interview with the young Howard Freeman on a local TV program. He was being highlighted for his academic achievements and impending college career. She was impressed by the young man’s respect and gratitude towards his parents. She was also moved...
Together we can do extraordinary things!

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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.

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Submissions Policy

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

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

The Chronicle and the Jewish Council do not endorse the goods and services advertised in these pages, and make no representation as to the kosher 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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Thank You to All Who Attended JCNCF’s Israel Day Celebration at Sholom Park of Ocala.

Thank you To Rabbi Ze’ev Harari of Temple Beth Shalom for leading the Ha’Zikaron service.
Thank you to Ken Colen and the Board and Staff of Sholom Park.

And a Special Thank You to All Who Volunteered.


From Ocala: Sheila Cohen, Richard Cooperman, Judy Donnenberg, Julie Dowd Rochlin, Shelly Lebowitz, Elaine Morrison, Sonia Peterson, and Ted Schivmmer

Thank you to the Appleton Museum of Art for providing the Art of the Hamsa arts and crafts station.

Thank you to our vendors: Aviant Party Rentals, Chutzpah!, Greg and Liz Carlew from Leapin’ Lizard’s Delicious Bites, Ed Ellett Insurance, Fabulous Faces Entertainment, and the Marion County Sheriff’s Office.
Yom HaShoah Committee to Collect Artifacts

By Robin West, Rebecca Jefferson and Katalin Rac

The JCNCF Holocaust Remembrance program scheduled for Sunday, April 15, 2018 will feature Arlene Stein, author of *Reluctant Witnesses*. The child of survivors, Stein will discuss how members of the “second generation” have helped to preserve their family memories and expand Holocaust awareness. For next year’s commemoration, the Yom HaShoah committee is also planning an exhibit and a panel discussion with local second generation members.

If you are a survivor or a relative of a survivor, we need your help! The committee hopes to create a memorial exhibit, to open on April 8, 2018 at the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida. We intend to identify and display holocaust-related memorabilia from local families. We would consider any items with historical relevance to the Holocaust: pictures, documents, small artifacts or objects, short films, letters, memoirs, or diaries.

An example of a recent donation to the Judaica Library is the Irgang-Entenberg-Kushner Family Collection. Hersh Wolf Irgang and Sura (née Entenberg) Irgang lived in Poland before World War II. In 1940, they were deported to the Soviet Union for forced labor and were released in 1946. Their daughter, Molly Kushner, who donated the family collection, was born in a Displaced Persons (DP) Camp.

The collection includes documents dated prior to their immigration to the U.S., as well as correspondence testifying to their efforts to gain compensation for property left behind in Jaroslaw, Poland. This collection enables researchers to learn more about the experiences of Holocaust survivors -- in this case, to learn about forced labor camps, DP camps, and the difficulties involved in obtaining reparations for lost or stolen property.

We hope that many people in the local community will be interested in donating to the exhibit! All exhibited items will be returned to donors. The library staff can help families preserve personal items, and may be able to tell you more about the history related to your family’s memorabilia. If you think you might have some Holocaust-related materials to include in our exhibit or if you have questions, please contact Robin West at YomH2018@gmail.com or the JCNCF office at 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org.

Thank You to All Who Attended & Participated in JCNCF’s Annual Yom Ha’Shoah Holocaust Remembrance Day

**Featured Speaker:**
Dr. Mark Wygoda

**Candle Lighters:**
Marcia Philips, Mark Wygoda, Diana Boxer, Adela Beckerman, Rebeca Shalom, Ken Wald, Tasneem Koleilat and Mujahid Abdulrahim

**Yom Ha’Shoah Committee:**
Estelle Aden, Jordan Dern, Abe Goldman, Virginia Brissette Hirshik, Lynne Holt, Barbara Oberlander, Philip Schwartz, Steven Slutsky, Kenneth Wald and Robin West

_We thank the following for their generous support and assistance:_

Congregation B’nai Israel, Rabbi David Kaiman, Rabbi Michael Joseph, B’nai Israel Sisterhood, B’nai Israel Men’s Club, Philip Schwartz, Michael Wolf and Rick Buncher and the Alachua County Sheriff’s Office
The newly organized Community Relations Group of the JCNCF is embarking on a project to attend the worship services of congregations of other faith communities within the Gainesville area. Rabbi Joseph of Temple Shir Shalom is coordinating this project, and he explains that the goals of the project are several:

“First,” according to Rabbi Joseph, “I expect that those individuals from the Jewish community who attend these services will all be learning and making new friends, myself very much included. Second, I think it is important that we as a Jewish community demonstrate our appreciation and support of religious diversity by reaching out actively to those of other faiths. And third, at an historical moment when we are particularly wary of hate crimes both large and small, I hope this will shore up support for the Jewish community if and when we need it, and function as a promise of our support for other groups who may come to need us.”

The Community Relations Group will be requesting invitations from non-Jewish congregations approximately once every four to six weeks, and then extending that invitation to its “roster” for the project. The goal is to have at least five “emissaries” for each invitation. The host pastor or service leader will certainly know of the presence of the Jewish delegation, and may, perhaps, acknowledge it, but there are no expectations that the Jewish emissaries will make a presentation of any kind.

If you would like to be included on the “roster” of potential visitors, please contact Rabbi Joseph at rabbijo-seph@shirshalom.net or William Alford at engagement@jcnfc.org.
Price Judaica Library at UF Acquires New Collection

By Rebecca Jefferson
Director of the Price Library of Judaica

The Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida has just acquired an extraordinary worldwide study on anti-Semitism, created by the Holocaust survivor and prominent Argentinean reparations lawyer, José Moskovits. Yosef (José) Moskovits was born in Hungary in 1926. During WWII, he was captured and held in the notorious Margit prison in Budapest, at the same time as Hannah Senesh. After the Soviets liberated Budapest in 1945, he took part in the covert effort to transport Jewish survivors to Palestine, and in 1948, he fought in the Israeli War of Independence. Following his marriage to Halina Feldberg in the 1950s, the couple relocated to South America. In 1958, Moskovits opened a law office in Buenos Aires to assist Holocaust survivors from all over Latin America with reparation claims against Germany. He also worked closely with Simon Wiesenthal, assisting him to identify Nazi war criminals and providing safe houses for Mossad agents during capture of Adolf Eichmann. Beginning in 1967, Moskovits served as the President of the Argentine Association of Jewish Survivors of Nazi Persecution, in which capacity he worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the Holocaust in Argentina.

In the 1970s, at the height of Argentina’s Dirty War, and following the UN Declaration in 1975 that Zionism is racism, José Moskovits embarked on an ambitious project, to conduct a systematic, worldwide survey of attitudes towards anti-Semitism by individuals of influence. Canvassing by mail around 5,000 individuals and groups in more than 150 countries, Moskovits addressed his survey to leading statesmen and politicians; as well as scientists, journalists, authors, artists, and corporate, military and religious leaders.

Moskovits included in his survey seven probing, open-ended enquiries aimed at getting to the heart of anti-Semitism. For example, his second question asked: “In your opinion, has anti-Semitism objective causes? If so, are they of a theological, racial, economic, social, psychological or any other nature?” In his cover letter accompanying each survey, Moskovits invited the recipients to go beyond the limitations of the questionnaire and to freely express their opinions, concluding that “Your viewpoint could be most useful for a correct approach to the problem.”

Moskovits received nearly one thousand responses to his survey, from countries across the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia, including such far-flung and diverse places as Tonga, Rhodesia, and the Republic of Transkei. Among the many famous people who responded were Birch Bayh, Sir Isaiah Berlin, Joseph Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI), Zbigniew Brzezinski, Milton Friedman, Roland Barthes, King Hassan II of Morocco, King Olav V of Norway, former U.S. Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, Lady Margaret Thatcher, Kurt Waldheim, and the foreign minister of Iran.

In the early 1980s, Mr. Moskovits was forced by Argentina’s Dirty War to relocate to Israel. He continued to represent his survivor clients until his death in 2014. The Moskovits Anti-Semitism Collection will be housed in the Judaica Suite, where it will available for visitors to view and scholars to study. It is expected to be of great interest to historians, statisticians, sociologists, anthropologists and other researchers across a range of disciplines within the humanities, as well as scholars and students working in global studies, particularly within the multidisciplinary sphere of human rights documentation and research. Please contact the Library’s curator, Rebecca Jefferson (rjefferson@ufl.edu) to arrange a viewing or to find out further information.
Israel in Brief: News and Developments

By Ralph Lowenstein

Macron and the Jews

A third-grade teacher asked all the students in her class to write a short essay on the elephant. A Jewish child turned in his assignment titled: “The Elephant and the Jews.” So now that Emmanuel Macron has been elected president of France, we are getting lots of stories that could be headed “Macron and the Jews.”

Since Macron did not represent one of the major parties, French Jews did not know what to expect. A self-declared progressive, Macron is likely to be somewhat hostile to Israel’s present settlement policy. On the other hand, French Jews were pleased by Macron’s statement that France would recognize a Palestinian state only after a negotiated settlement agreed upon by Israel and the Palestinians, and his comment that the French action to abstain on the recent UNESCO vote to condemn Israeli presence in East Jerusalem, rather than voting “no” like the US and Britain, “was a mistake, and I condemn it.” Stay tuned. (JTA)

Driverless Leadership

Confirming Israel’s leadership in the global race to put autonomous vehicles on the road, the U.S. semiconductor giant Intel agreed in May to buy the Israeli driverless-technology company Mobileye for $15.3 billion – yes, billion. It is the most expensive acquisition ever of an Israeli high-tech company. With its ownership of Mobileye, and a new partnership with automaker BMW of Germany, Intel plans to put a fleet of 40 self-driving vehicles on the road later this year. Intel, a US company, already employs 10,000 persons in Israel in research and the production of semiconductor chips. It is one of Israel’s largest employers and exporters. (JTA)

Venezuelan Jews Coming to Israel

Venezuela’s economic crisis is so severe that citizens must wait in line for hours at grocery stores to buy basic staples. Tens of thousands of persons have left the country, including a growing number of Venezuelan Jews, who have relocated to Israel. (Washington Post) Editor’s note: Several annual recipients of funds from the Jewish Council of North Central Florida – including the American Joint Distribution Committee – facilitate the absorption of these refugees into Israel.

US Dollars for Palestinian Terrorists

The Palestinian Authority, under its president Mahmoud Abbas, spends more than $300 million each year in monthly payments to families of terrorists who have been either jailed in Israel or killed for assaults on Israeli civilians. Members of the U.S. Congress and the English Parliament have increasingly been urging the leadership of both countries to reduce aide to the Palestinian Authority by the amounts spent on this reward for terrorism. (Jewish Chronicle—UK)

Arab-Israelis’ New Presence in Healthcare

Arab-Israelis represent about 20% of the Israeli population. According to 2015 statistics, Arabs are gaining in their representation in the government healthcare system: 42% of nursing students are Arab, and 38% of druggists are Arab, 16% of all medical students are Arab. At the Technion medical school, Arabs were 38% of students and at Ben-Gurion University in the Negev, 31%. (Ha’aretz)

New Archeological Garden in Old City

The new Davidson Archeological Garden, situated near the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem, was unveiled in May. It features antiquities from the Second Temple and early Muslim and Byzantine periods collected since the end of the Six-Day War. These include remains of a gate and wall that date to the King Solomon period, as well as thousands of coins, ancient jars, seal impressions and stones with Hebrew inscriptions from the Second Temple period. (Jerusalem Post)
By Gracie Appelt, The Jaffa Institute

All of us here at the Jaffa Institute are excited to be celebrating our 35th anniversary. It was in May of 1982 that Rabbi Dr. David Portowicz and Retired Senior Israel Defense Forces Officer Zonik Shaham z’l founded the Jaffa Institute as a private, non-profit, multi-service social agency to assist severely disadvantaged individuals from the impoverished communities of Jaffa, South Tel Aviv, Bat Yam, and Bet Shemesh in Israel. Our mission is to provide educational, nutritional, therapeutic, and social enrichment programs that develop children’s positive attitudes and skills to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. Through over 30 different programs, the Jaffa Institute provides service and relief to 4,000 diverse children, teenagers, adults and elderly individuals annually.

The Greater Jaffa community is one of the most impoverished areas in Israel, where more of our young people drop out of high school than graduate. To address this tragic reality, the Jaffa Institute runs 11 After-School Educational Enrichment Centers that provide educational and therapeutic support to children ages 3-12. When the children arrive at the Center, the first thing we do is provide them with a hot, nutritious meal – for many, their only full meal of the day – which is vital in helping them remain focused. Our goal is to close the academic gaps between the at-risk children in our care and their more-advantaged peers by providing them with the same opportunities that every Israeli child has. Sadly, some of the young children arrive at our Centers without ever having held a crayon before.

Through our Musical Minds program, all of the students are exposed to music and art as well as recreational activities. The Centers reflect the diversity of our community, allowing children from Ethiopian families and other backgrounds to receive targeted support while integrating into Israeli society. Additionally, several of our After-School Educational Enrichment Centers are specifically designed to assist children with special needs.

For children who require more intensive support, the Jaffa Institute offers two crisis residences – The Neve Ofer House and the Bet Shemesh Educational Center for at-risk boys. Both residences provide a warm and nurturing environment to children who would otherwise not have a place to call home. Through therapeutic and academic support, the children are able to overcome their hardships while continuing their education.

We are very proud of the thousands of children who have participated in our programs over the last 35 years, many of whom have overcome tremendous obstacles to successfully graduate high school. To ensure that these motivated, bright young adults are able to continue their education regardless of their financial situation, the Jaffa Institute launched the Scholarship Program which awards scholarships for tuition and living expenses to approximately 200 needy students annually. This financial support enables students to earn their degrees and ultimately achieve professional success.

Additionally, as a part of the Jaffa Institute’s holistic approach to breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty, we launched the Food Distribution Center (FDC) after noticing that students in our After-School Centers were taking food home to feed their families. Bustling with enthusiastic volunteers from all over the world, the FDC provides regular food packages to over 400 households throughout the year. Recently, during the Passover holiday, the Center increased its distribution to 3,000 households and provided special holiday foods, like matzah, to ensure that Israel’s most impoverished individuals were able to celebrate the holiday with dignity, joy and nourishment.
JCNCF to Celebrate The Jaffa Institute’s 35 Years of Service to Israelis in Need

Many of these recipients are elderly individuals, particularly Holocaust survivors. Tragically, of the almost 200,000 Holocaust survivors living in Israel, over one-third of them live below the poverty line. The Jaffa Institute works hard to assist this community in a variety of ways. In addition to delivering food packages, volunteers with our Accompanying the Elderly program stay and visit with the elderly individuals, together building lasting friendships. The Jaffa Institute also organizes social events throughout the year to develop team spirit and raise morale. At our most recent event, 130 individuals gathered at the unique Na Laga’at Theater and Restaurant to eat, enjoy a performance, and meet new people.

Furthermore, the Jaffa Institute offers several programs to address the unique needs of the underprivileged girls and women in our community, including the workplace training program, Welfare to Wellbeing. Through this comprehensive program, the Jaffa Institute provides long-term unemployed women with therapeutic support, vocational skills training, and job-placement assistance. Sadly, many of the women in this program have suffered from domestic abuse and other traumas. While vocational instructors provide the necessary skills for the workforce, social workers guide the women through the emotional challenges they face and build their self-confidence in a supportive group atmosphere. We were excited to see one of our Welfare to Wellbeing graduates was honored with an “Employee of the Month” award for her exceptional job performance.

Over the years, the Jaffa Institute has expanded our programming to meet the diverse and significant needs of our community. In the coming year, in collaboration with the local government, we are growing our successful programming to include sites in the impoverished city of Yehud. For more information or to read more stories about our programs, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or visit our website at www.jaffainstitute.org.

Save the Date - Sunday, October 29
JCNCF Celebrates the Jaffa Institute’s 35th Anniversary

The Jaffa Institute
Tikkun Olam with the Freeman Family

Continued from page 1

by the news that at this important time in Howard’s life, his mother had passed away. Laurel’s mother, Breezy, decided to offer her condolences and make the 45 minute drive to the Freeman Shoe Center, a local shoe store in Lake Worth.

From this initial meeting, the two families became close friends. After a few years of friendship, Laurel and Howard decided that there might be something more between them and, as they say, the rest is history! They will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 1st. While in school at UF, they decided to remain in Gainesville to raise a family.

While working, Howard continued his education, receiving 4 degrees from UF, including an EdD in Community College Administration. Laurel also received a B.A. in education from UF. She was one of the founding teachers of the B’nai Israel nursery school, where Bonnie attended.

After their other daughter Carolyne graduated high school, Laurel went to the Florida School of Massage. From 1970 to the present, both Laurel and Howard have been active in real estate, now owning Freeman Realty.

When they first ventured into real estate, Howard was teaching at Santa Fe College at the time and Laurel helped manage the business. Today, Freeman Realty is run with the help of their daughter, Carolyne. Laurel is going into her 30th year as a licensed massage therapist. She developed her own massage technique, Reconnecting Neuromuscular Response™, which she effectively uses to help clients.

In December of 1980, life took an unexpected turn that would shake up the Freeman’s world and set them down a new path. Their daughter Bonnie had not been feeling well that month and by the beginning of 1981 she was having trouble breathing. At this point, Howard and Laurel knew something was not right so they took her to the doctor searching for answers. The news they received was every parent’s worst fear. Bonnie was diagnosed with ALL, a type of leukemia, and was sent to Shands.

Soon after that, Bonnie asked “Why don’t we do something for the other kids?” Howard and Laurel were impressed with their daughter’s selflessness and respected her desire to do something. So the family reached out to their friends, the late, Doris Bardon and Elaine Brown for guidance on how they could start a fundraising organization. Coming up with a name was important and while the family and close friend were brainstorming, with a sense of directness, Bonnie took the initiative and suggested calling it “Stop Children’s Cancer.”

As STOP crystallized, Bonnie was hands-on with stuffing envelopes, baking treats for back sales, organizing and publicizing for garage sales. As the months passed, Bonnie’s condition progressed, but she did not let that slow her down or derail her commitment to help other children who were suffering. In 1982, Bonnie received a bone marrow transplant in an attempt to extend her life. Over the next year she continued her work with Stop Children’s Cancer, while enjoying time with her family, friends and many activities. Bonnie lived in the moment and through a child’s eyes was ever present.
Tikkun Olam with the Freeman Family

Laurel shared with me her amazement at the maturity with which Bonnie accepted her destiny. One week before Bonnie passed away in July of 1983, at the age of almost 13, she wrote a letter which you can read in its entirety on their webpage. In the letter Bonnie explains that this “Fund is to help other children be cured of cancer.” She goes on to say “Our family has put a lot of time and energy into this fund. I want everyone to appreciate all of the hard work our family and others have done.” I think we can all agree that we are in awe of and deeply appreciate the work that has been done in Bonnie’s name. And finally she reminds us that “Money is not the only way you can help. We need people to make things to sell, work on paper stuff and spread the word of the fund to others.”

Today, Stop Children’s Cancer stands as a fitting memorial to a young girl who rose to meet one of life’s most unfair challenges and thought of others. It also exemplifies what a small group of people can achieve when they see a need and then act. With the help of friends and community, the Freeman family built an organization that is inspiring.

Carolyne Freeman shared with me her thoughts on this organization that has become such a large part of her family, “One of the most impressive things about Stop Children’s Cancer is that Stop is truly a community charity. I am constantly in awe of all the people who donate their money, time, energy and efforts to STOP. The synergy from Stop is heart warming. It is my hope that in my lifetime cancer will be eradicated and/or treatments will be available that will allow the individual to live a long and happy life. In fact, with the type of cancer Bonnie had back 30 years ago the chance of survival was 40%, now with ALL the chance of survival rate is now 90+%.”

The STOP organization hosts several annual fundraising events including the 29th Annual Fantasy Event which took place in May, the 23nd Bob Dooley Golf Tournament in June, 24th Annual Stop Children’s Cancer Golf Classic in September, the upcoming 19th 93.7 K-Country Bear-a-Thon and the 21st Annual Holiday Traditions Concert this December. Please visit their website to find out how you can donate or get involved: at www.StopChildrensCancer.org
A Busy Summer Planned at the B’nai Israel Day School

By Debby Kinman-Ford, Director
B’nai Israel Community Day School

I used to think that during the summer things slowed down, but it never really does. This summer, we will, of course, continue to have our Infant and Ones classes. Additionally, we have three very busy camp sessions for our preschoolers. Every week, we cook with the children, and engage them with programs such as animal education from the Santa Fe Zoo and mad science days.

Beyond camp, we will spend the summer making our dream of an elementary school a reality. New furniture, orienting our new teacher and structuring our program so when August 14 comes, we will be ready to begin the next chapter of our story.

In the year to come, we will be offering mindfulness classes twice a week to our preschool and elementary children and staff. For five months, our staff will be trained in meditation and yoga along with our children. We will also expand the outdoor environmental program and create a fitness trail. Buffing and polishing, painting and rearranging- it’s another fun and busy summer at the Day School!

Looking Forward to Chavaya: A Great Jewish Experience

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

The religious school experience at Congregation B’nai Israel is looking toward a bright new year beginning August 27, 2018. Our program is based on fun, experiential learning techniques that support our students in developing a love of Jewish life and learning. The curriculum includes Hebrew and prayer, Torah, Jewish food, Jewish history, the Jewish lifecycle, Shabbat, holidays, Jewish ethics and a variety of special topics.

This last year, our growing program of over 40 students celebrated the joys of the Jewish calendar with plenty of hands-on activities. In addition to their basic prayer and Hebrew study, Chavaya students made their own terrariums for Tu B’shevat, fermented their own pickles for the community’s Jewish Food Festival, made creative dioramas of several Jewish communities, and participated in a special youth oriented seder for Passover with Rabbi Kaiman.

In January, we welcomed two native Hebrew speaking teachers to our program to strengthen our students’ connection to the Hebrew language. As we look to the next year, we are striving to develop an even stronger focus on Hebrew by combining a new text- and digital-based curriculum to be implemented by our many returning teachers. In addition to this Hebrew study, we will continue to explore creative programming and study with Rabbi Kaiman, as well as build connections between our Chavaya families to strengthen our beautiful community.
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@jcnf.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 Graduates!

High School Graduates:
Allyson Baros-Kabler
Anna Baumstein
Sarah Eisenstadt
Logan Locasio
Emily Rich
Elliot Smith

University Graduates:
Ashley Baros-Kabler
Madison Housden
Lauren Levy
Dassi Lipnick
Erin Sperling
Avi Tomar

In Memoriam

Our community mourns the passing of these beloved friends and family members:
Nettie Salzman,
mother of
Tony and Shelley Salzman

Gloria Kolikoff Williams,
mother of
Michele and Stephen Sugrue

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.

Shalom, Baby!

Mazel Tov to the Brody Family! Diane and Jeff Brody wish to announce the birth of their grandson, Saxon Elliot Brody, son of Kimberly and Ian Brody on May 5!

Mazel Tov to Jackson and Deborah Hunt and big sister, Annabelle on the birth of Amelia Lillian born May 3!

Photo credit to Christine Diorio Photography
North Central Florida Congregations & Organizations

Gainesville

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3830 NW 16th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32605
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Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah (HAD)
Meredith Bacharach, President
mwbacharach@gmail.com
352.256.7631

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

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

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 (CLJC)
Marion County & The Villages
Rabbi Yossi & Chanie Hecht, Directors
www.jewishmarion.org
13030 CR 103, Oxford, FL 34484
352.291.2218

Congregation Beth Israel (CBI-O)
Rabbi Karen Allen
www.bethisraelocala.org
7171 SW Hwy 200, Ocala, FL 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, Ocala, FL 34470
352.629.5837

Temple B’nai Darom (TBD)
Rabbi Harold Jaye
www.facebook.com/TempleBnaiDarom
49 Banyan Course, Ocala, FL 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
Community Calendar for Summer 2017

The JCNCF office will be closed
Monday, May 29 through Friday, June 2
in observance of
Memorial Day and Shavuot

Summer Hours:
Monday through Thursday
9 am to 5 pm
We will be closed on Fridays through
June and July

Wednesday, June 7
• Friendship Circle at CBI, 10:30 am to 1 pm
  (Repeated June, 14. Friendship Cirlce will begin meeting again in Sept.)
• CBI Lev Tov at St. Francis House, 5:30 pm (Repeated June, 21, July 5 and 19.)
• Caregivers Support Group at TSS, 7 pm. (Repeated July, 5.) For more information contact Lori Waxenberg, loribwax@gmail.com

Sunday, July 30
• Tisha B’av Service at CBI, 8 pm.

JCNCF Offering $1,000 Grants to Fund Community Security Initiatives

The Jewish Council is pleased to offer three $1,000 grants for North Central Florida Jewish institutions to upgrade their existing security systems or towards the purchase of a system if one is not currently in place. The deadline for grant applications is Friday, June 30. For more information, contact JCNCF at 352.371.384, email office@jcncf.org or visit www.jcncf.org and go to the Grants Information page.
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