JCNCF’s Annual Beit Ruth Brunch Set for January 29

By Danielle Burnestein
Executive Director, Beit Ruth

Over 30,000 girls ages 12 to 18 are considered at risk in Israel. Yes, in Israel. Lost to the streets, forgotten, discarded, abused. The issue of vulnerable and at-risk girls in Israel poses a serious threat for the larger mainstream of Israel, and its future. At-risk girls, versus at-risk boys, is a segment of the population that is left much unseen, and therefore is an issue that is left mainly unaddressed. But there is hope for these young women at the Beit Ruth Educational and Therapeutic Village. At Beit Ruth there is the belief and hope that each young girl will be able to heal her trauma and return to mainstream society able to care for herself, be a contributing responsible citizen of her community and Israel – and help break the cycle of abuse and violence in her own life and for the future generations of women, children and Mothers of Israel.

Continued on page 6

Tikkun Olam with Barry and Elaine Jacobson

By Sharon Hirshik

Barry Jacobson likes to tell the slightly embellished for comic value story of how he and his wife, Elaine, first met. It was 1980, the beginning of their freshman year at the University of Florida. A group of guys were hanging out in Barry’s room getting to know each other. Barry and Elaine walked in with another girl. Their eyes met across the room. Barry approached Elaine and asked... “Who’s your friend?”! He dated Elaine’s friend for the next 4 years. But Barry and Elaine also became friends bonding over big pots of spaghetti and jugs of wine every week. At the end of four years, they realized they were in love. They dated for 4 more years. During that time, Barry got a Master’s degree at University of Florida and went on to North Carolina State University for his Ph.D. in Biological and Agricultural Engineering. Elaine went directly into a Ph.D. program in Food and Resource economics at UF. Elaine moved to North Carolina and in 1988 and they were married that year.

Barry and Elaine’s son Kyle was born in 1990 and they traded off parenting duties, while progressing on their Ph.D.s, living in North Carolina. This was so unusual at that time that they were highlighted in a newspaper article about their shared parenting duties. They moved back to Gainesville in 1994 where Barry did postdoctoral work at the University of Florida and began working for a small environmental engineering firm. Elaine did consulting work and taught at the University of Florida. In 1998, Barry was offered a job in Minneapolis at Cargill, an Agribusiness. They spent three long winters in Minnesota and happily returned to Gainesville in 2001! Barry rejoined the consulting firm as a partner and Elaine again taught at the University of Florida. They have remained in Gainesville since that time.

Continued on page 8
ANote from JCNCF President & CEO

By Virginia Brissette Hirshik
President & CEO, JCNCF

As we say farewell to 2016 and all of its challenges, we look forward to the possibilities of 2017. There have been a lot of changes at the Jewish Council this past year and every day is a new adventure. What hasn’t changed, though, is our mission. The JCNCF remains dedicated to providing philanthropic, cultural and educational opportunities for the Jewish communities of North Central Florida.

We are very proud that for the first time in several years, we made our Annual Campaign goal for the fiscal year of 2015/2016. That achievement allows us to support Jewish charitable causes internationally and to provide community programming locally. Thank you to all whom have supported our mission through your generous donations and tireless volunteering. We could fill many, many pages of The Chronicle with thank you notes to the people who make our work possible. We appreciate each and every one of you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank one person in particular - Dawn Burgess-Krop, who served as the JCNCF President for the last three and a half years. There are not enough words of thanks that can be written to Dawn for all that she has done for the Jewish Council. She gives of her time, talent and treasure without limit and inspires others with her thoughtful and compassionate leadership. The JCNCF has grown and evolved during her Presidency and we are so grateful for her service.

On Behalf of the Board and Staff of JCNCF, we say “Todah raba v’ahava, Dawn!”

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.

The Chronicle

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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 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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A New Direction for JCNCF Leadership in the New Year

By Rosalie Bandyopadhyay
Vice President, JCNCF

Since its founding several decades ago, the Jewish Council of North Central Florida has been fortunate to have incredible volunteer leadership from dozens of dedicated and hard-working community members. However, the new reality of non-profit organizations is that volunteers have less time to meet the increased demands of fundraising, program planning, maintaining a non-profit organization and being accountable to its members, donors and the community. JCNCF is not unique in this regard.

For the past three years, we have been fortunate to have Virginia Brissette Hirshik as our Executive Director. She has served with outstanding volunteer presidents, however, we have now evolved into needing a more consistent and professional staff to fulfill JCNCF’s mission. Therefore, the JCNCF Board of Directors unanimously amended the By-Laws to changing the Leadership positions. The current Executive Director position has been eliminated and transformed into the President/CEO, which is a paid position. The President/CEO will thus have more autonomy and responsibility in running the organization, representing JCNCF to the Jewish community and broader population, and with the assistance of the volunteer Campaign Chair, direct fundraising efforts.

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to offer the position of President/CEO to Virginia Brissette Hirshik who has accepted. We have also been able to fill the new position of Assistant Director with an energetic and diligent employee, William Alford.

We continue to have engaged community members willing to serve on the Board as officers and committee chairs. The volunteer Treasurer and the Finance Committee will work with Virginia to manage the budget and fiscal matters. The Treasurer and volunteer Vice-President will be in control of disbursements. The Secretary will continue to record meetings and sign instruments, as needed. The Personnel and Executive Committees, among others, will continue to be active. We welcome additional community members to volunteer.

With Virginia and William, JCNCF now has a vibrant professional staff who will work full time to fulfill the mission of JCNCF, increase our role in the life of our Jewish community and aid Israel and world wide Jewry.
African Jewry Scholars to Lecture in Gainesville

On Thursday, February 2 at 7 pm, community members are invited to attend a talk, *The Jews of Africa and the Complexity of Origins*, by Professor Tudor Parfitt in the Oak Room at Oak Hammock. Parfitt, President Navon Professor of Sephardi and Mizrahi Studies and SIPA Research Professor at FIU, will be joined by his student and collaborator, Remy Ilona.

Professor Tudor Parfitt was appointed Parkes Fellow at the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations at the University of Southampton in 1974 and shortly afterwards took up the lecturership in Modern Hebrew at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. In 1976, he was appointed associate member of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, and in 1992 became a senior associate member. He was successively lecturer, senior lecturer, reader and professor (Professor of Modern Jewish Studies) at SOAS. He founded the Centre of Jewish Studies at SOAS and was its director from 1993 to 2006 and from 2010 to 2011. Parfitt was also Chair of the Middle East Centre at SOAS for 4 years and Chair of the SOAS Senior Common Room for 15 years. In 2012, he was appointed President Navon Professor of Sephardi and Mizrahi Studies and SIPA Research Professor at FIU. Parfitt has been featured on PBS and frequently is referred to as “the British Indiana Jones.”

**Parfitt and Ilona Lecture Schedule for February 2:**

12 pm - Seminar by Professor Tudor Parfitt: “The Black Jew and the Enlightenment.” Department of History Conference Room, Keene-Flint Hall, University of Florida.


All events are free and open to the public and are co-sponsored by the Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish History at the University of Florida, the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida, JCNCF and Judge Karen Miller.

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The Chronicle - Page 5

By Ralph Lowenstein

**New Stealth Fighter Arrives**

The first two of an expected 50 Lockheed-Martin F-35 stealth fighter planes arrived in December in Israel. Israel is due to receive six or seven planes a year, through 2022. Cost of each plane is a staggering $90 million.

The Israel Air Force has named the plane “Adir” (mighty). Israel Aircraft Industries played a major role in design of the aircraft. The F-35’s information systems enable the transmitting and receiving of real-time encrypted data, and its stealth capabilities significantly enhance its survival. Israel’s current first-line fighter plane is the American F-16, also manufactured by Lockheed-Martin.

In 1948, when Israel made its first large purchase of war material from Czechoslovakia — the only country in 1948 that would ignore the UN worldwide embargo on arms sales to both Israel and the Arab nations planning to invade — it paid $12 million for 25 fighter planes, 15,000 rifles, 4,000 machineguns and 3 million rounds of ammunition.

**Company Develops Revolutionary Engine**

An Israeli company, Aquarius Engines, says it has created a revolutionary new engine that will greatly improve automobile mileage. Tests by the German engineering firm FEV have shown that the new engine will allow a car to travel 994 miles on a single tank of gasoline, more than double the current distances. (AFP)

**Fertility Rate of Israeli Jews and Arabs**

It is generally believed, but untrue, that Israel is facing a fertility time bomb, since fertility rates of Israeli Arabs, now 20 per cent of the population, is much higher than that of Israeli Jews. However, the birth rate of Israeli Jews has been rising in recent years, while that of Israeli Arabs has been decreasing. In 2015, Israeli Arab birth rate per family dropped to 3.1, from 4.3 in 2000, while Israeli Jewish birth rate rose to 3.1 in 2015, from 2.6 in 2000. (Times of Israel)

**Device Allows Medical Exam from Home**

An Israeli company, Tyto Care, has announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given clearance to its new digital stethoscope. The new digital equipment allows a doctor to give the home-bound patient a virtual physical exam, including heart rate and rhythm, images of the ear canal, moles, rashes and other skin lesions. The stethoscope device will allow a doctor to diagnose whether the patient has a cold, asthma or something more serious. (Israel21c)

**Israel, Greece, Cyprus in Gas Business Together**

Israeli, Greece and Cyprus ministers met in Jerusalem recently and agreed to work together to promote a gas pipeline from Israeli and Cypriot gas reserves in the Mediterranean to European nations, reducing their dependency on Russian gas. The Greek oil and gas company Energean has said it will soon present Israel with a plan to develop the Israeli fields at a development cost of $1 billion. (Globes)

**Ohio House Passes Anti-BDS (boycott, divestment, sanction) Bill**

In an 81-13 vote, the Ohio House of Representatives approved at the end of November a bill to prohibit state agencies from contracting with a company that is boycotting or disinvesting from Israel. The Ohio Senate approved the same bill in December. Ohio now joins Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa and South Carolina in passing similar bills. The ACLU of Ohio has called the legislation “an unwarranted attack on First Amendment rights, as it severely restricts the right to speak out or take action based on political beliefs.” (Cleveland Jewish News)
Continued from page 1

As the Beit Ruth Village celebrates its third anniversary, there is much to be proud of. The Village currently provides safe shelter, as well as, educational and therapeutic support to 45 girls. We are grateful to receive a continuing grant for a large portion of our operational funding from the Israeli Department of Welfare and Social Services and can now turn our focus, once again, towards construction and expansion. We have begun our Phase 2 Capital Campaign which will see the construction of a central Academic Hall, as well as, two additional dormitory units. Upon completion, this expansion will almost double our current capacity to 75 girls, permitting us to accept another 30 girls awaiting placement at Beit Ruth.

Beit Ruth has developed a unique and comprehensive approach to addressing the specific issues and needs of Israel’s young girls at-risk. Our integrated residential, academic and therapeutic framework provides and implements different and carefully chosen activities and programs that contribute to Beit Ruth’s ultimate goal of providing our girls with the necessary skills, education, resources and tools to succeed once leaving the Village and re-entering mainstream society.

The girls of Beit Ruth come from all over Israel and from different family, economic and cultural backgrounds. What they share is that each one has experienced a traumatic past, and lives in a broken present. Most suffer from deep social and emotional issues with serious gaps in their formal education. Because every one of our girls comes to Beit Ruth with different academic levels and varied social and emotional competencies, an individualized curriculum and plan is created for each girl with her specific needs and capabilities in mind.

Together with our formal education and traditional therapeutic curriculum, our enrichment programs foster our girls’ emotional, social and physical well-being, while also engaging their sense of teamwork, trust, respect, responsibility, creativity and critical-thinking - and their understanding of themselves and connection to each other, Israel and the world.

Beit Ruth’s Art Therapy is a cornerstone of our enrichment and therapeutic programming. The program uses a variety of mediums, including painting, drawing, photography, knitting and more. Many girls find their voices here; their ability to communicate, to understand themselves, to express their past. They discover through a camera lens, find their sense of self-worth through paint, express their feelings on canvass, and express their hopes and dreams. Through art, they develop understanding and creativity to tackle the life challenges that they will face in the future. Critical and creative thinking and analytical skills helps them to think for themselves and to build self-confidence.

Educational Field Trips is another key program. At-risk girls live with a sense of not belonging. Beit Ruth works to build that sense of needed connection. We create important experiences to help them build that connection to themselves and to each other – and importantly, to discover and forge their own connection to Israel, and understanding of their place in it. Most of our girls have never traveled outside their own communities, and lack the understanding and appreciation of the rich and complicated history of their homeland. Trips include guided walks through Jerusalem’s Old City and Yad Vashem, where they learn of the Holocaust, honor the victims, commemorate the righteous and begin to understand the principle of “Never Again”. We encourage their connection to, their belonging to and their understanding of Israel and the world around them. Other trips have included hikes through the Golan Heights, floating in the Dead Sea and camping in the Negev Desert.

JCNCF’s Annual Beit Ruth Brunch Set for January 29
Danielle Burenstein is the new Executive Director at Beit Ruth and directs strategic planning and development to help lead Beit Ruth to a higher level of community-building, visibility, partnership development and impact.

Before joining Beit Ruth, Danielle was the Executive Director of Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda for vulnerable and orphaned youth, modeled after youth villages built in Israel after the Holocaust. Previously, she led development at an independent school in Harlem and a prominent congregation in NYC.

Prior to her work in development, Danielle was a Corporate Social Responsibility manager at a Fortune 11 company. She began her career as an attorney with a Paris law firm before moving to NYC to join the Legal Aid Society where she represented the under-served, addressing issues of poverty and housing.

Danielle is the proud daughter of a Holocaust survivor who arrived in what was then Palestine on the Exodus 47. She credits her mother with showing her what courage looks like, teaching her how even during the worst of atrocities, generosity and kindness can thrive and breed hope. She wants to pass on this hope to the girls at Beit Ruth who have never been given reason to believe that the world can be a kind and good place. Danielle lives happily in NY with her partner.

**Women of the North Central Florida Jewish Community**

**Are Invited to a Brunch to Benefit Beit Ruth: A Residential Village for At-Risk Girls and Young Women in Israel**

**Meet Beit Ruth Executive Director, Danielle Burenstein**

**Sunday, January 29 at 10:30 am**

**At the Home of Debra Trione & Paul Okunieff**

**William Kent Court - Haile Plantation**

**4010 SW 93rd Drive - Gainesville, FL 32608**

~ Sponsor $100 - Supporter $72 - Friend $54 ~

Please RSVP by Monday, January 23

352.371.3846 or office@jencf.org
Tikkun Olam with Barry and Elaine Jacobson

Continued from page 1

In 2007, an unusual turn of events led them in a new direction. They decided to put solar panels on their own home. After pricing them, Barry realized he had the skills to do this on his own. They outfitted their home with solar panels. Requests started pouring in from friends asking Elaine and Barry to install solar panels on their homes. Thus, Solar Impact was born. In the beginning, Elaine ran the business and Barry tried to continue working at the environmental consulting firm as well as Solar Impact. But the business exploded within a few months. It became necessary for both of them to focus all their energy on their new business. Barry and Elaine are very proud of Solar Impact, not only of their success, but of the positive environmental impact solar energy can have on the world. They believe strongly that renewable energy can help to heal the environment.

Barry and Elaine have performed Tikkun Olam in multiple ways. They have volunteered not only in the Jewish Community, as presidents of Temple Shir Shalom and with Elaine chairing the Grounds Committee at the Temple for over 10 years, but also in their efforts to save the environment. For the past two years, they have organized “Tree Fest.” This family friendly event, hosted by Swamp Head Brewery, is the largest source of tree planting funding for the Alachua Conservation Trust. Additionally, Elaine and Barry have established The Solar Impact Charitable Fund through the Community Foundation of North Central Florida. They are always looking for ways to have a positive “Impact” on the community.

Barry and Elaine have two sons, Kyle and Eli. Kyle, 26, is a student at UCF studying Computer Science. Eli, 23, works at UF as an Academic Advisor in the Material Science Department. As a break from their hard work and intense schedule, Barry and Elaine have sailed around the Caribbean with Barry captaining for the last 5 or 6 years. This summer they will be sailing around the Greek Islands.

Thank you Barry and Elaine for your tremendous effort in helping to “repair the world.”
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...

Naomi Richards, daughter of Paul and Laura Richards, who celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on December 17!

Jack and Cosette, son and daughter of Aaron and Kim Bosshardt who celebrated their B’nei Mitzvot on December 17!

In Memoriam

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

Marlene Rosen, Sister of Eli and Linda Dassa

Donna West, Sister of Robin West and Ken Wald

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.

CBI Day School Wins Big at Gingerbread House Competition

Congregation B’nai Israel and the B’nai Israel Community Day School took home top honors at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of North Central Florida’s annual fund-raiser “Build a House for the House” at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center on December 8.

In left photo: Jenifer Petrescu, Kerri Peters, Anita Gold Altschuler, Sherry Nungesser Houston, Keri Rostholder Wernecke, Debby Kinman-Ford, Melanie Gonzalez, Kara Shinn-Stein and Amanda Banister Rone.

Photo courtesy of HOME Living in Greater Gainesville Magazine and Allison Durham Photography.
North Central Florida Congregations & Organizations

Gainesville
B’nai Israel Community Day School (DS)
Debby Kinman-Ford, Director
www.bnaiisraelcds.org
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Center for Jewish Studies
at the University of Florida (CJS)
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Sandra James, Office Assistant
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352.392.9247

Congregation B’nai Israel (CBI)
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Jenifer Petrescu, Executive Director
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Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah (HAD)
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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
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352.336.5877

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Ross Van Boven, Director of Religious School
Ann Eisenstadt, Office Manager
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3855 NW 8th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32605
352.371.6399

UF Hillel (HLL)
Rabbi Adam Grossman
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352.372.2900

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Marion County & The Villages (CLJC)
Rabbi Yossi & Chanie Hecht, Directors
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352.291.2218

Congregation Beth Israel (CBI-O)
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Congregation Beth Sholom (CBS)
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Temple B’nai Darom (TBD)
Rabbi Harold Jaye
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Temple Shalom of Central Florida (TSCF)
Sheldon Skurow, Spiritual Leader
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13563 County Road 101, Oxford, FL 34484
352.748.1800

Saturday, January 28 at 8 pm
Violins of Hope
Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts
Jacksonville

The “Violins of Hope” concert features 16 violins recovered and restored from The Holocaust, presented in collaboration with the Anne Frank: A History for Today exhibit at the Museum of Science and History (MOSH) in January and February

Reserve your tickets through the Jewish Council and receive a 25% discount. Transportation for this event is not included, however, carpooling can be arranged for anyone interested in attending.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact the JCNCF Office at office@jcncf.org or 352.371.3846.
Community Calendar for January 2017

Sunday, January 1
- Daisy/Brownie Troop meeting, 1:30 pm at CBI Community Room.

Tuesday, January 3
- Torah on Tuesday with Rabbi Kaiman at CBI, 12 pm (Repeated January 10, 17, 24 & 31)

Wednesday, January 4
- Friendship Circle at CBI, 10:30 am to 1 pm (Repeated January 11, 18 & 25)
- CBI Lev Tov at St. Francis House, 5:30 pm (also January 18)

Tuesday, January 10
- Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph at TSS, 9:30 am (Repeated January 17, 24 & 31)

Friday, January 13
- TSS Breakfast at the Deli 9:30 to 10:30 am .43rd Street Deli

Wednesday, January 18
- Four Week Cooking Class with Alice Robar, CBIIm 6 to 8 pm. Continued on January 25, February 1 & 8. $72 per person. For more details contact Casey@BnaiGainesville.com

Thursday, January 19
- “Real Housewives of the Bible: An Exploration of the Role of Women as Portrayed in Jewish Scripture,” 7 pm, Temple Shir Shalom. This is the first in a series of Adult education classes being taught by Rabbi Michael Joseph of TSS and Rabbi David Kaiman of CBI. Contact the office at TSS for more details.

Saturday, January 21
- “Musica” monthly family program that teaches Hebrew through music and movement. 11 am, CBI. For more information contact Karen Cohen at babymusica@cox.net

Wednesday, January 25
- Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah, Luncheon with Barbara “BG” Goldstein, Deputy Director of Hadassah, 11am, Leonardo’s 706. To RSVP please mail a check for $30 payable to Hadassah to Tamara Segal, 9321 SW 43rd Lane,Gainesville, FL 32608

Sunday, January 29
- Brunch to Benefit Beit Ruth, at the home of Debra Trione and Paul Okunieff, 10:30 am. Please see page 6 for more details.
- “HeBrew” Hangout at World of Beer, 1 to 3 pm. For more information, contact TSS who is the sponsor.

By Rabbi Michael Joseph
Temple Shir Shalom children and adults enjoyed an unusual and exciting program on Sunday, December 4, sponsored by the congregation’s New Sisterhood. As shown in the photo at left, Temple member and professional dog breeder and trainer, Lo Wolfson (back row) brought several of her award-winning animals for a program called, “How to Raise a Good Jewish Dog.” Besides some very practical tips about dog training, behavior, grooming, etc., the program generated a wonderful discussion of Jewish values such as care-taking, compassion, learning and teaching, and respect for friends and strangers. Lo Wolfson is the proprietor of Mahogany English Setters and Chihuahuas in Chiefland, Florida.
In This Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JCNCF’s Annual Beit Ruth Brunch</th>
<th>page 1</th>
<th>Israel in Brief</th>
<th>page 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tikkun Olam with the Jacobsons</td>
<td>page 1</td>
<td>Beit Ruth Brunch continued</td>
<td>page 6 - 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A note from JCNCF President &amp; CEO</td>
<td>page 2</td>
<td>Tikkun Olam continued</td>
<td>page 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A New Direction for JCNCF</td>
<td>page 3</td>
<td>Transitions</td>
<td>page 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Jewry Scholars to Lecture in Gainesville</td>
<td>page 4</td>
<td>Directory &amp; Community Calendar</td>
<td>page 10 - 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Save These Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHEN</th>
<th>JCNCF Programs &amp; Events</th>
<th>WHERE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 26, 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Helping Hands Clinic Dinner</td>
<td>First United Methodist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 29, 10:30 am</td>
<td>JCNCF Annual Beit Ruth Brunch</td>
<td>Home of Debra Trione and Paul Okuneiff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2, 7 pm</td>
<td>Professor Tudor Parfitt Talk</td>
<td>Oak Hammock, The Oak Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11, 6 pm</td>
<td>PJ Library Havdalah</td>
<td>Temple Shir Shalom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>