Seventh Annual Jewish Film Festival Kicks off March 19

By Jack Kugelmass, Director of the Center for Jewish Studies

The Gainesville Jewish Film Festival, which kicks off on Sunday, March 19 and runs through Saturday, April 1, is now in its seventh year. The Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Florida will once again partner with the Jewish Council of North Central Florida to offer 10 screenings of (mostly) brand new films from Israel, Germany, The Netherlands and Poland at Gainesville’s historic Hippodrome Cinema.

The festival opener Harmonia is a visual and aural spectacular with a story that brilliantly recasts in a contemporary setting one of the most enigmatic narratives of the Hebrew Bible—the casting away of Hagar and Ishmael. This retelling imagines the possibility of reconciliation among the parents and between the children. Harmonia is followed by Mr. Gaga, a documentary that is leaving audiences everywhere spellbound. The combination of a charismatic subject, dance and music all make for an entertaining evening that even feature films seldom achieve.

Included in the festival are two other superb documentaries about Israeli society one on men and sport spectatorship – Forever Pure, the other on women in a Negev development town – Dimona Twist. They both demonstrate the fine level of achievement of Israeli documentary filmmaking.

The festival will also screen an illuminating German-made docudrama The People vs. Fritz Bauer on the chief German prosecutor behind the pursuit of Adolph Eichmann. The film has striking parallels to last year’s festival opener A Labyrinth of Lies, but from a completely different angle. Intellectually, the Fritz Bauer film is much more satisfying and much less Hollywoodish, but still very compelling.

The festival includes two films guaranteed to entertain. The delightful Dutch film Moos is about a young woman trying to find herself and explore her talents for a career separate from being the “good daughter.” She unexpectedly also finds (Jewish) love. For those who like suspense, don’t miss the visually stunning Polish thriller, A Grain of Truth. The film manages to convey a bit of history and take some side swipes at historical anti-Jewish superstition.

The festival ends with three very strong films: One Week and a Day is a serious, sad, funny, but ultimately, uplifting story about letting go of mourning. There’s a lesson in this film for all of us. AKA Nadia is a powerful story about crossing a seemingly rigid social divide. It’s reminiscent of A Borrowed Identity but much more enigmatic, especially with its ending. The final film is an emotionally powerful Polish documentary, Bogdan’s Journey, that will restore viewers’ faith in the possibility, or better put, the necessity of reconciliation. The festival begins on a theme of reconciliation, and it ends that way as well. See Schedule Pages 8 & 9

Celebrate Perlman and Purim on Saturday, March 11

On Saturday, March 11 at 7:30 pm, come out to the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts for a night of classical music with Itzhak Perlman on violin and Rohan De Silva on piano.

Following the performance, enjoy a Joyous Purim Reception with a wine tasting, an assortment of NY deli and Hamentashen favorites, and an opportunity to hear a Megillah reading.

All guests who attend the concert are welcome to enjoy the free celebration sponsored by the Jewish Council of North Central Florida, in partnership with the Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student & Community Center.

JCNCF has a limited number of tickets available in orchestra left for $75. Please call the JCNCF office (352.371.3846) to reserve your seats for the concert or to RSVP for the reception.
Updates from The Jewish Council

The JCNCF’s Community Relations Group will hold their second meeting on Wednesday, March 15 at 5 pm at Congregation B’nai Israel.

This group has formed in response to the rise of anti-Semitism and other hate based rhetoric and activities, locally and nationally.

To get involved with this group, please contact the JCNCF office at 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org.

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.

The Grants Committee of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida would like to notify the community that the JCNCF Board is re-evaluating the grants program. We will not be accepting grant requests in March, 2017. The committee will update the community as soon as new guidelines have been determined.

Sharon Hirshik
Grants Committee Chair

The JCNCF’s Annual Campaign is just under $139,000! That’s over 84% of our goal. Thank you to everyone whom has supported the Campaign this year! Help us get to $165,000 by May 31st! Go to www.jcncf.org to make your gift today!

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Ken Wald to Give Talk at UF on Tuesday, April 4

On Tuesday, April 4 at 6 pm, Dr. Ken Wald, the Shorstein Professor Emeritus of American Jewish Culture and Society, will give a talk on How American Jews Fell in Love with the Secular State. Based on voting patterns, American Jews are the most pro-Democratic white ethnic group in the United States. This finding has long puzzled observers because Jews exhibit social traits associated with conservative and Republican loyalties. Ken Wald, a political scientist at the University of Florida, will try to untangle this mystery in a public lecture at the University of Florida.

Ken will explore how concerns about the relationship between church and state became a central political priority of the American Jewish community. He shows how this issue has reinforced Jewish ties to the Democratic Party and contributed to their overwhelming support for Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the Pugh Hall Ocora at UF.
Beit Ruth Says, “Thank You!”

Dear Jewish Council and all who support Beit Ruth,

Thank you so much for attending the Brunch so beautifully held by our gracious hosts Debra, Paul and Eva, and seamlessly coordinated by Virginia and William. Your amazing community made Beit Ruth’s month! I can’t begin to tell you just how much I appreciated your warm welcome, your generosity of spirit and your incredible support for our lifesaving work with Israel’s most vulnerable girls.

The coming together of a community like Gainesville did not escape me. A community brought together by a common purpose, sensibility and deep-seeded belief in Tzedakah. Not the common definition used to signify ‘charity,’ but the literal meaning - justice and righteousness. I told people in NY and Israel, it was TIKKUN OLAM come to life. I’m already looking forward to next time!

At The Beit Ruth Village we serve as many 13 to 18 year old girls that we can, working to provide a life of healing, education, love and possibility. Sadly, there are still more than 30,000 girls out there. With your help, our programs are growing, and our reach getting wider. Together with your support we are making a real difference in the lives of our girls. Thank you, each and every one of you, for being a special part of the Beit Ruth Family.

Margaret Mead wrote, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Thank you, Gainesville. We are so grateful to you. Don’t forget, if you’re going to Israel, call me. You’ll have to visit your girls.

With gratitude, respect and love,

Danielle Burenstein,
Executive Director, Beit Ruth (Shown in photo above)
Israel in Brief: News and Developments

By Ralph Lowenstein

New ‘Great Power’ on Block

“American Interest Magazine,” which each year lists “The Eight Great Powers in the World,” made a surprising No. 8 selection this year – Israel.

The List:
1. United States
2. Japan
3. China
4. Russia
5. German
6. India
7. Iran.
8. Israel

Israel replaced Saudi-Arabia on the list. The reason given by the editors: “Overall, the Jewish state continues to develop diplomatic, economic and military power and to insert itself in the heart of regional politics.”

The magazine listed these specific factors for its choice of Israel: large, offshore discoveries of natural gas and oil are turning Israel into an energy exporter; good schools and talented thinkers and entrepreneurs – many countries want a piece of Israeli tech wizardry; the balance of power has changed in the Middle East, transforming Israel from a pariah state to a kingmaker – Israel is critical to the survival of Sunni Arabs, including the Gulf states, which loath and fear Iran; and its new and deepening relationship with India and renewal of relations with Turkey. “Theodor Herzl and David Ben-Gurion” would be astonished and proud, the magazine editors stated.

Solar Tower Experiment.

Israel has always been a leader in solar power. Most hot water in Israeli homes, apartment buildings and hotels comes from roof-top solar thermal collectors. Now Israel is making a greater leap into the future with experiments with the world’s tallest solar towers – the one shown here is 820 feet high. Three of these towers, which will be completed in the Negev within another two years, will generate enough electricity, it is hoped, to provide all the electricity needs for four to five cities the size of Gainesville. In this method, thousands of mirrors focus the sun’s rays onto the tower, heating a boiler that creates steam to spin a turbine and generate electricity. Encircling the tower shown above are 50,000 mirrors, called “helistats.” (Associated Press photo)

One Jew Left

Afghanistan, which a hundred years ago had a thriving population of about 5,000 Jews, now has only one Jew left. Zebulon Simentov lives alone in Kabul, although his wife and two children dwell in Israel. Jews thrived in Afghanistan for more than a thousand years, but most emigrated to the U.S. and Israel after the Russian invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. Both the Muslim manner of killing animals and its listing of forbidden animals is similar to those in Judaism, so Simentov sells kosher meat and kebabs to the non-Jewish residents of Kabul.

UN Resolution 2334

UN Resolution 2334, which President Obama allowed to pass without an American veto, called all Israeli settlement activities in occupied Palestinian territory “a flagrant violation of international law.” If strictly enforced, it would call for the eviction of at least 400,000 Israeli Jews from East Jerusalem and a prohibition of attendance at the Mount of Olives Jewish Cemetery (which has 70,000 Jewish graves) and the Western Wall. George P. Shultz, who served as Secretary of State from 1982 to 1989 under Ronald Reagan, called Resolution 2334 a “shameful act” that, if enforced, would jeopardize the possibilities of a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli problem.

Israeli Breathalyzer

An Israeli team of scientists has developed a breathalyzer technology that has an 86% success rate of identifying 17 different diseases, including cancer and multiple sclerosis. (Med Device Online)
Hundreds Enjoyed Cong. B’nai Israel’s Food Festival

Congregation B’nai Israel could not be happier with the participation of the Jewish community at the Food Festival—it was a day of great food, music and community!

Special thank you to our sponsors JCNCF, Leonardo’s 706, Ibti Hijazi Catering and Gary and Suzy Miller for their tremendous support in making this event possible.

We would also like to recognize the special talents of Richard Scher as Chair of the Food Festival Committee, Ibti Hijazi for kitchen coordination, Casey Leopold for logistics and organization, the Klezmer Katz band for the wonderful music, as well as, B’nai Israel’s Sisterhood for their dedication in making this event a success.

We thank you and look forward to next year’s event! - Jenifer Petrescu, Executive Director CBI

Bubbe and Zaydee Day at B’nai Israel Community Day School

By Debby Kinman-Ford, CBI Community Day School Director

B’nai Israel Community Day School LOVES our BUBBES AND ZAYDEES!!!

Every year in the spring we look forward to Bubbe and Zaydee Day! Grandparents come from all over the country to spend the morning at the preschool. On Friday, February 24, we welcomed them with a tour of the school then hosted a brunch in their honor. After that our grandparents were then escorted to their grandchildren’s classrooms where they were welcomed by doors decorated just for them.

This year, Bubbes and Zaydees ate lunch together with their grandchildren and did a food related project in coordination with B’nai Israel’s food festival. In some classes, families made fruit salad, others made noodle necklaces, and still other classes made stamp art using celery and citrus from our orchard. After the classroom craft and lunch, everyone joined together for a special Kabbalat Shabbat program with Rabbi Kaiman and Miss Debby. There was singing, stories, and of course, eating challah freshly baked at the school. The morning concluded with time on the playground, then it was time for naps—for everyone! We were so thankful to all of the grandparents who took time out of their busy schedules to visit the school and spend the day playing with us!
Me, Cuba, and a Jewish Adventure

By Dr. Jeffrey Helicher

My interest in Cuba began back in the late 1950s while I was in elementary school. My Spanish teacher always raved about Havana, calling it the “Pearl of the Caribbean.” He told us Cuba was an idyllic vacation spot full of great hotels, casinos, fantastic food and drinks, beautiful beaches, tree-lined streets, and plazas with architecturally stunning buildings and homes. The Cuban people were welcoming and engaging as well, he revealed.

However, Cuba’s reality changed to that of revolution while I was still in school. Images on the news consisted of guerrilla fighting, tanks, firing squads and executions. A population of refugees formed, with many Cubans making the hard decision to leave everything they knew and possessed behind to begin a new life in the United States.

Fast forward fifty years and policies in the country are now in transition. When I heard through the Jewish Federations of North America that the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) was offering a Mission to Havana through its Ambassador’s platform, I jumped at the opportunity.

As some background, the Jewish community in Cuba has a long legacy that started 500 years ago and had a Jewish population of 15,000 at its height. I even had relatives who immigrated to Cuba in the early 20th century as they traveled to the United States. Once the revolution ended, only 1,500 Jews remained in the country, mostly in Havana. Currently, there are three synagogues in Havana including Conservative, Orthodox, and Sephardic temples of worship. In addition, the Jewish Cemetery in Havana contains the first Holocaust Memorial to be dedicated in the Western Hemisphere.

Before I went to Cuba, I was unclear what JDC’s mission actually is. Now, I feel confident in saying that this statement is no longer true as I have been greatly inspired by JDC’s accomplishments I have seen, and its staff I have met. They are all caring, dedicated, driven, and altruistic.

For those who don’t know, JDC is the 102-year old Jewish humanitarian assistance organization working in 70 countries to aid Jews in need and build Jewish life. JDC has been responsible for historic rescue operations like Operation Solomon, the miraculous airlift of over 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel in 1991, and today also responds to natural disasters in places like Haiti, the Philippines, and Nepal, aiding non-Jewish populations in crisis.

In the early 1990s, when Soviet influence waned and disappeared in Cuba, constitutional amendments renewed religious freedoms. In 1991, JDC was invited by the Cuban Jewish community to assist in the rebirth of religious life, a Jewish renaissance. At that time, JDC provided food, medication, and other basic needs to the Jewish community, while simultaneously reconnecting community members to Jewish traditions and education. Sunday School classes, study groups, holiday celebrations, and summer camp programs began at that time, led by JDC.

During our trip, our mission group was introduced to “Gabby,” a JDC counselor from Argentina who has been working for years to implement education and leadership development programs for all ages. His efforts have bolstered a strong, thriving community. We were lucky enough to be guests at the weekly Shabbat dinner where hundreds of members of the community joined together to celebrate communal traditions. On a personal note, I was impressed by the cadre of teenage members who, through Gabby’s influence and training, have become the backbone of the synagogue and community. They conduct services, prepare and serve the Shabbat dinner, and attend to individuals in need within their community. Getting the younger generation involved in the Cuban Jewish community is truly a great and important accomplishment.

Some of the highlights of our tour included the Old Town section of Havana, the Hemingway House and Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of the Revolution, Revolution Square, the cigar factory, and the Hotel Nacional—a historic landmark. We even had a briefing by the U.S. Ambassador to Cuba at the U.S. Embassy. Every part of the tour arranged by JDC was top-quality ranging from our hotel, to the delicious meals we ate, our tour guide, and the bus driver.

Right now is the perfect time to visit Cuba, a country on the precipice of potential political change. To think that just 50 years ago the revolution forced the confiscation of homes and businesses of many families, resulting in thousands of Cubans choosing to leave their native country and head to the United States is incredible. For those who chose to remain in Cuba, today they only receive an estimated $25 for their monthly income through a rationing system that provides just one pound of meat, per person a month, and a crumbling infrastructure which is heartbreaking.

For the future of Cuba’s Jews, let’s join together and support their continued efforts to build a strong and innovative Jewish community. Dr. Jeffrey Helicher resides in Gainesville, Florida.
Seventh Annual Gainesville Jewish Film Festival

Pairings:

**Sunday, March 19 - 7:30 pm**

*Harmonia*
2016 / drama / 97 min
Director: Ori Sivan

A visually stunning adaptation to contemporary Jerusalem of the biblical story of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar—and a moving and very powerful plea for coexistence.

**Tuesday, March 21 - 7 pm**

*Mr. Gaga*
2017 / documentary / 100 min
Director: Tomer Heymann

A documentary about the brilliant chief choreographer of the Batsheva dance company. From the opening scene of the Ten Plagues, the film will make you fall in love with modern dance.

**Wednesday, March 21 - 7 pm**

*The People vs Fritz Bauer*
2016 / drama / 105 min
Director: Lars Kraume

A film about Fritz Bauer, the enigmatic figure behind the Auschwitz guards trials in Frankfurt, and the decision to collaborate with the Mossad in the capture of Eichmann. This film is darker and more pessimistic than *Labyrinth of Lies*, but intellectually more satisfying.

**Thursday, March 23 - 7 pm**

*Dimona Twist*
2017 / documentary / 71 min
Director: Michael Aviad

A surprisingly upbeat documentary on six women whose families migrated to Israel more than fifty years ago and were resettled in Dimona. The film received a standing ovation at its Jerusalem Film Festival premier.

**Saturday, March 25 - 8:30 pm**

*Sam and Moos*
2016 / rom-com / 91 min
Director: Job Gosschalk

Made for Dutch television, this delightful film is partly a love story and partly a tale about a young woman determined to establish a creative career for herself separate from taking care of family.

Individual film tickets are $10 each.
Festival passes are $85 for all 10 screenings (save 15%) and $45 for 5 (save 10%).

Go to www.jcncf.org to purchase.

UF students FREE with valid student ID on a space available basis.

Call 352.371.3846 for more information or for assistance with ordering tickets and passes.

All films screened at the Hippodrome Cinema, 25 SE 2nd Place, Gainesville, FL 32601
Sunday, March 19 through Saturday, April 1

The Gainesville Jewish Film Festival is a partnership between the Jewish Council of North Central Florida and the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Florida.

It is made possible, in part, by these generous sponsors:


Sunday, March 26 - 3 pm

Forever Pure
2016 / documentary / 85 min
Director: Maya Zishstein

A riveting and eye-opening documentary on Jerusalem’s Beitar soccer club and its Russian oligarch owner who misjudges the team’s fanatically right wing fans.

Monday, March 27 - 7 pm

A Grain of Truth
2015 / thriller / 112 min
Director: Borys Landkosz

A maverick prosecutor finds himself dragged into the investigation of a string of apparent ritual killings rooted in Poland’s past. This is a thriller blending memory of immediate post-Holocaust Poland and historic blood libels.

Wednesday, March 29 - 7 pm

One Week and a Day
2016 / dark comedy / 98 min
Director: Asaph Polonsky

A very thoughtful and slightly dark but hopeful comedy about a couple getting up from shiva. The serious aspect to the film is its exploration of mourning and acceptance and how much the timing of each varies from person to person.

Thursday, March 30 - 7 pm

AKA Nadia
2015 / drama/ 115 min
Director: Tova Ascher

A very clever plot about “passing” and how an assumed identity eventually unravels through unpredictable circumstances. The ending is masterful.

Saturday, April 1 - 8:30 pm

Bogdan’s Journey
2016 / documentary / 90 min
Directors: Michal Jaskulski & Lawrence Loewinger

An emotionally powerful and uplifting documentary about a resident of contemporary Kielce, Poland who believes in the importance of taking ownership of a difficult past and organizes an unofficial memorial to the victims of the 1946 Kielce Pogrom.
Tikkun Olam with Rabbi David Kaiman & Rebeca Shalom

By Dawn Burgess-Krop

Those in our community who love “Hoggetowne” may think that all roads lead to Gainesville. For Rabbi David Kaiman and Rebeca Shalom, that belief may have some basis. Rabbi Kaiman’s parents, Beverly and Marvin, met in Gainesville while Beverly was attending the University of Florida and Marvin came to Gainesville as an Air Force recruiter for a Zionist organization. Fast forward to the next generation, with David and Rebeca meeting at a conference for international Jewish studies in Gainesville, where they were both active in Hillel as UF students.

Rabbi Kaiman was born in Pensacola, as was his mother, with his grandparents leaving Poland to settle in the panhandle town. After graduating from the University of Florida, David returned to Pensacola to work in the family steel and scrap metal business. Rebeca joined him there after graduating from UF and earning a Master’s degree in social work from Florida State University. They married in 1977. Their sons, Joel and Daniel, were born in Pensacola, and the Kaimans lived there for 21 years until David entered Rabbinical School.

The common bond of living a committed and observant Jewish life that brought David and Rebeca together made entering the rabbinate in mid-life a purposeful decision. David moved to New York to enter the Jewish Theological Seminary while Rebeca remained in Pensacola that first year to complete Daniel’s bar mitzvah and sell their house. Joel stayed behind to finish high school and lived with his grandparents while Rebeca and Daniel moved to New Jersey for the remaining five years of David’s education. The adjustments involved makes it clear that this life change was a commitment by the entire family.

When Rabbi Kaiman completed rabbinical school and was ordained in 2003, it so happened that Congregation B’nai Israel was seeking a rabbi. While a student at UF, Rabbi Kaiman taught religious school at B’nai Israel and returning as a Rabbi completed the circle.

Rebeca had a much more peripatetic life than her husband. Born in Cuba, with her father a Holocaust survivor and her mother born in Cuba, Rebeca and her family were compelled to move to escape the tyranny of her native country. While her father stayed behind for eight months waiting for Castro to fall, Rebeca’s mother fled to Miami with her older sister. When her father was able to leave Cuba, they lived in Israel for two years, then moved to Brooklyn, New York, for four years. The family finally settled in Miami when Rebeca was in junior high.

Rebeca has been a social worker for 39 years. She has worked in children’s services and medical settings, performing administrative work and primary care. While in New Jersey, she worked in a hospital where she assisted patients and families requiring acute care and engaged in a great deal of end of life education and bereavement counseling. It was a natural transition to work for Haven Hospice upon moving to Gainesville.

As UF students, David and Rebeca were actively involved in Hillel, teaching, and Jewish leadership. In Pensacola David was President of his synagogue and Rebeca was President of Sisterhood. As rabbi at B’nai Israel, Rabbi Kaiman has strove to create programming which offers diverse ways to engage Judaism through experiences and education. From programs on raising Jewish children to the upcoming Jewish Food Festival, he has sought to offer opportunities to engage Jewish life.

Upon arriving at B’nai Israel, Rebecca met Elsa Kula, who had been providing meals to the St. Francis Homeless Shelter for 13 years and was seeking a replacement volunteer for this valuable service. Lev Tov, meaning “a good heart,” was reborn, and Rebeca has tirelessly recruited volunteers to assist with twice monthly meals for the homeless for another 13 years.

Coming from very different places, Rebecca’s and David’s passions intertwine. Rebeca observes that she has lived in many different places, but learned that “you always take your Jewishness with you.” She elaborates that through her life, her name has changed, her language has changed, but being Jew remains constant. Rabbi Kaiman states that he is more interested in what Jews do in the future than what they did in the past, and thus he is constantly seeking to bring the “best of our tradition to embrace the world as it will be.” He states his philosophy, “I firmly believe that one of the best parts of Judaism is that we open many doors. The more doors we open, the better we can find connections.”

Rebeca and David travelled to Belarus and Poland a few years ago to find the village of David’s grandmother in Belarus and to trace the path of Rebeca’s father, who lived in a nearby village, from Belarus to Auschwitz concentration camp.

David is blessed to have both his parents living in Gainesville. Rebeca lost her father, Sol, last year, but her mother, Dora, now resides here as well. Rebeca and David have two sons, Joel and Daniel. Daniel is a rabbi in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and is married to Rachel Gold, and Joel does public relations work and lives in Orlando with his wife, Bethanie Barber.

Rebeca recognizes that being the child of a Holocaust survivor provides her with a distinct lens through which to view life. “You don’t take anything for granted. There are the losses of people you never knew-the people that were not present.” An affirmation of maintaining Jewish life and identity pervades the spirit of this couple. It is our community’s blessing that they share this spirit so generously.
Tikkun Olam with Rabbi Michael & Debbie Joseph

By Nancy Parks

The term *tikkun olam* is complicated. We can all agree that the world needs repairing and healing, but what form should that take? Political engagement, religious learning, direct service to the sick and hungry, or leading others to good works? For Rabbi Michael Joseph, the answer is all of the above. The path that brought him to Gainesville in 2004 and his experiences since have deepened both his conception of, and his dedication, to *tikkun olam*.

Growing up in Port Washington, New York as the oldest of three brothers, Michael was immersed in social action from a young age. His Reform Jewish family took their social responsibilities seriously; both parents at different points served as mayor of their community. They made their voices heard on issues ranging from potholes and tree plantings to Civil Rights and the Vietnam War.

It was a natural progression, then, that as a student dining hall worker at Yale in 1977, he became involved in a large strike of unionized workers. More than 100 student workers walked out in solidarity with the union workers. The experience was both empowering and frustrating, as the union made great strides in their settlement with the university, but did not support the student workers who had backed them. Michael’s dedication to social engagement was clear, but the form it would take was still evolving.

Rabbinical school brought with it a major transformation in his path of tikkun olam. The study of Jewish virtues led him to a different course of service, less political, less “macro,” and more individual, more dedicated to helping those most in need in the community. This belief found expression while Rabbi Joseph was serving in his first rabbinical position in New Orleans from 1989-91. He helped involve the congregation in a program to care for AIDS patients at a time when the disease was still often feared and misunderstood. As his career brought him and his growing family (wife Debbie and children Edie and Ben) to Pennsylvania and Virginia, he found new ways to serve his new communities. He and his congregants at Temple B’nai Brith in Wilkes-Barre partnered with residents of a local housing project to plant trees in their neighborhood, helping to form a residents’ council and learning to negotiate tensions and differences. Serving on the Board for Child, Family, and Youth Services, he had the difficult and important task of investigating the death of a child in foster care. Always, guiding his work as a Rabbi, he embraced the goal of getting the Jewish community to see social action in a Jewish light.

Rabbi Joseph brought this dedication and experience when he came to Temple Shir Shalom in 2004. He sought to bring the congregation together in their social engagement, to support the many individuals doing good work in the community and to bring the Temple’s support to JCNCF social action projects. On the tenth anniversary of 9/11 in 2011, when Gainesville faced controversies over Koran-burning, Rabbi Joseph joined an interfaith group of spiritual leaders dedicated to positive projects. That partnership led to involvement with Welcoming Gainesville and the Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Coalition. He is passionate about “connecting the dots” for people, showing us that it is not a coincidence that so many Jews are dedicated to social justice. He leads us to understand our good works as an integral part of our Jewish identity, each enriching the other, and he keeps the spark of tikkun olam alive through his example and his teachings.

Todah rabah to the rabbis, rebbetzins, staff and lay leaders who serve our Jewish Community!

We hope you enjoyed this month’s *Tikkun Olam*, which was a slight departure from previous articles. It is the first in a series profiling the rabbis and staff who tirelessly work to build North Central Florida’s Jewish community. In future editions, we will feature more rabbis, staff and community leaders.

If you know of someone who serves the North Central Florida Jewish community and would like us to consider them for future *Tikkun Olam* profiles, please reach out to the JCNCF office.
A Guide to Area Camp Opportunities

Jordan Glen School and Summer Camp
www.jordanglen.org  352.495.1222
12425 SW 154th St, Archer, FL 32618

Jordan Glen Summer Camp offers children the opportunity to experience and explore a variety of activities: Tennis, Arts & Crafts, Soccer, World Dance, Swimming, Tie Dye, Baseball, Drama, Nature Crafts, Beading, Ping Pong, Archery, Basketball, Friendship Bracelets, Ultimate Frisbee, Football, and Surprises! Children entering Kindergarten through 8th grade in Fall 2017 are invited to enroll, and transportation from Gainesville is available on our school bus.
Session 1: June 5 - 23 ($700)
Session 2: June 26 - July 14* ($700)
Sessions 1 & 2: June 5 - July 14* ($1200 = $200 discount!)
10% off camp tuition for sibling, 20% off 3rd child tuition, 30% off 4th child tuition *No camp July 4

Camp Gan Israel
www.jewishgator.com  352.336.5877
2021 NW 5th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32603

Camp Gan Israel of Gainesville is part of the largest network of Jewish summer camps in the world. Gan Israel is a unique camp dedicated to enriching the lives of children from diverse backgrounds and affiliations through creative programs and a variety of sports, crafts, trips, and exciting events. A special emphasis on the warmth of Judaism is our foundation as campers are imbued with a deep sense of pride in their Jewish heritage and a love for the Land of Israel.
Junior Camp: Our special junior program is designed exclusively for kiddies ages 3-5. The little ones will experience a mini version of Camp Gan Israel, including music, sports, gymnastics, art, weekly Judaic themes, and water play. An optional extended lunch and nap session from twelve to one pm is available. For more information contact, Rabbi Berl Goldman

Camp Colelman
www.campcoleman.org  706.865.4111
201 Camp Coleman Drive, Cleveland, GA 30528

Camp Coleman’s mission is to inspire campers grades 3-12 and staff to be caring, committed, and connected Jews through an extraordinary camp experience. A traditional sleepaway camp, Coleman offers art activities such as ceramics, Jewish cooking, drama, music, and more, adventure activities such as a high and low ropes course, archery, karate, and more, sports activities such as soccer, tennis, basketball, and more, and a pool and lake.
Visit their website to view the camp video, see what additional activities are offered, and find out how to register.
June 11th-July 6th and July 9th-August 3rd. Rising 3rd-8th grades: $4,565, Rising 9th grade: $4,950, Rising 10th grade: $5,095

Camp Scholarships Available! Thanks to the generosity of The Michael and Anita Siegal One Happy Camper Fund, six $1,000 incentive grants are available. Any Jewish child who would like to have a first-time experience at a Jewish overnight camp and who lives in a community that is part of JFNA’s Network of Independent Communities, which JCNCF is one, is eligible to apply. Visit www.jewishcamp.org for more details and to apply for the first time camper scholarship.
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!

Amanda Malnik, daughter of Sonya Salkin, is an honors student in the 7th grade at Oak Hall School where she excels as a member of the varsity golf team. She has three older siblings, Jessica, Zachary and Sam. Amanda wishes to thank Rabbi David Kaiman and Connie Stern for their patience and for giving so generously of their time to prepare her for her Bat Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to the Goldstein Family!

Bodie Goldstein was born on February 1 to Melissa and Glenn Goldstein. Glenn is the son of Harvey Goldstein.

Mazel Tov to the Carson Family!

Isadora Kaila Carson was born on February 15 to Joshua and Amy Carson.

In Memoriam

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

Jason Benchimol,
Son of George and Heidi Benchimol

Jerry Siegel,
Husband of Delores Siegel
Father of Jodi Siegel and Robert Robins

Rhoda Wolf,
Mother of Dr. Michael and Betty Wolf

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.

Jordan Glen School's Summer Camp 2017
June 5 - 23 June 26 - July 14

SPORTS • ARTS & CRAFTS
SWIMMING • TENNIS • DANCE

Transportation Available
Limited school openings for school year
Pre K - 8th Grade

Fine, Farkash & Parlapiano, P.A.
When Life Changes, We're There

352.372.7777 www.ffplaw.com
North Central Florida 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. Jack Kugelmass, Director
Sandra James, Office Assistant
web.jst.ufl.edu
PO Box 118020, Gainesville, FL 32611
352.392.9247

Congregation B’nai Israel (CBI)
Rabbi David Kaiman
Jenifer Petrescu, Executive Director
Shauna Sikron, Coordinator of Jewish Learning
Casey Leopold, Programs
Denise Thompson, Administrative Assistant
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

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

JCNCF needs help delivering the annual Mishloach Manot (Purim bags). Volunteers are needed to deliver approximately 10 bags each to local area seniors. Bags will be ready for pick up on Thursday, March 9 and Friday, March 10 at the JCNCF office. For more information, please contact the JCNCF office at 352.371.3846
Community Calendar for January 2017

**Wednesday, March 1**
- Friendship Circle at CBI, 10:30 am to 1 pm (Repeated March, 8, 15, 22 & 29)
- CBI Lev Tov at St. Francis House, 5:30 pm (also March 15)
- Caregivers Support Group at TSS, 7 pm. For more information contact Lori Waxenberg, loribwax@gmail.com

**Friday, March 3**
- Tot Shabbat at TBS, 5:30 pm. For further information call our Ritual Chair, Ted Schwimmer at 352-854-6446.

**Tuesday, February 7**
- Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph at TSS, 9:30 am. (Repeated March 7, 14, 21 & 28)
- Torah on Tuesday with Rabbi Kaiman at CBI, 12 pm. (Repeated February, 14, 21 & 28)

**Friday, March 10**
- Pizza and Ice Cream Purim Shabbat at TSS, 7:30 pm.

**Saturday, March 11**
- Celebrate Perlman and Purim. Itzhak Perlman Concert followed by Purim themed reception at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Concert: 7:30, Reception: 9:45 pm. RSVP to 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org
- Super Hero Purim Party at CBI, 8:30 pm. This event is free and open to the public.

**Sunday, March 12**
- Purim Carnival at CBI, 10 am, Featuring Food Trucks, Bounce Houses, Carnival Games. $36 per family.
- Purim Carnival at TSS, 11 am, Featuring Megillah Reading, Food, Horse Rides, Silent Auction, Games. Tickets will be sold at the event.
- Purim in Italy! at LCJC, 4:30 pm, Featuring Megillah Reading, Italian Buffet and live entertainment. Adults $18, Children $10, Students $10.

**Sunday, March 19**
- No Religious School at TSS on March 19 or 26.
- The Seventh Annual Gainesville Jewish Film Festival Opening Night. Opening film, Harmonia, 7:30 pm, The Hippodrome Cinema. For full festival schedule turn to pages 8 and 9 or visit www.jcncf.org.

**Save the Date for JCNCF’s Annual Israeli Independence Day Celebration**
- **Sunday, April 30, Time TBA**
- **Sholom Park, Ocala**

The annual Israeli Independence Day Celebration is an event made possible by many amazing volunteers from our local community. If you would like to be a part of this year’s team, please contact the JCNCF office to find out how you can help. Call 352.371.3846 or email office@jcncf.org
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