Eighth Annual Mitzvah Day Another Success!

The Board and Staff of JCNCF thank the Jewish community of North Central Florida for making the Eighth Annual Community Mitzvah Day a great success! Thanks also to our community and business partners, as well as, project team leaders. Mitzvah Day exemplifies what is possible when our community comes together! Check out pages 8 and 9 for more photos and a break down of Mitzvah Day by the numbers.

(Continued on pages 8 & 9)

_Tikkun Olam_ with Ken Wald and Robin West

By Dawn Burgess-Kropp

It all started on a bus. As debate team members from different high schools, freshman, Robin West, found herself sharing a bus transporting them from an out-of-town debate when upperclassman Ken Wald, by his description, rather churlishly told Robin and her friends to be quiet (but not in those words). Robin provides that she and her friends were singing and having fun while cranky Ken was trying to sleep on the ride home. They reconnected in a more congenial fashion at the University of Nebraska and had their first date on New Year’s Eve, 1970.

Robin joined Ken in St. Louis for graduate school and the couple has lived abroad numerous times, including living in London while Ken did his dissertation research. Later, both received Fulbright Scholarships in Israel, with Ken studying Political Science in Jerusalem, and Robin, specializing in Developmental Psychology, emphasizing memory and aging, in Haifa. They have lived in Israel in various capacities several times. Robin and Ken recall that their arrival to Jerusalem marked the day Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. They followed this directive, but were soon able to return to Israel. They describe living in Israel as an "informative experience" to live in a society that is ordered and lived by a Jewish calendar. From their times of teaching, studying, and living, Israel is a special place for Ken, Robin, and their daughters.

Living in Israel had an impact on their children, Dara and Jaina. After living in Israel, the oldest, Dara, grew up in the states identifying herself as an Israeli. She spent her junior year of college living in a kibbutz and later returned to Israel to serve in the Army for three years, training as a tank mechanic and becoming an officer.

(Continued on page 6)
JCNCF to Form Community Relations Group

The Jewish Council is forming a Community Relations group to respond to concerns about the rise of anti-Semitism and other hate-based speech and activities, locally and nationally.

Individuals who share this concern and are interested in being part of an organized community effort to address the growth of this disturbing trend, should contact the Jewish Council office at 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org. Please respond by Thursday, December 15.

An announcement about a meeting date and location will follow.

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 Board & Staff of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida

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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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Dear Friends of the Jewish Community,

As we pause to give thanks this holiday season, I am struck by how fortunate I am to gather with family and friends to celebrate our blessings. We are blessed to live in an open, active and committed community where opportunities for Jewish life and connections abound. The Jewish Council enjoys a special place in that village and has certainly evolved since its inception many years ago. While we have maintained our enduring bond with Israel through the Jewish Federations of North America and other special fundraising projects, our role within the local community has blossomed and flourished. When the transition from the Gainesville Jewish Appeal (GJA) to the Jewish Council of North Central Florida (JCNCF) was conceived, certainly no one imagined a weekly electronic newsletter!

As I reflect on this past year, my first thoughts are of gratitude to each of you. As our major supporters, you are the foundation of our Annual Campaign. You sustain our mission to ensure that elderly Ukrainian Jews have adequate food and heating, that French Jews who wish to immigrate to Israel are able to make aliyah, and that troubled youth in Israel have our support through social service programs like the Jaffa Institute, Beit Ruth and Lunch and Learn in Dimona. When young families with children gather monthly to celebrate Jewish life cycle events, your support of PJ Library establishes the foundation of the next Jewish generation. For all of these Jewish community building efforts locally and globally, thank you!

I am proud that we have been able to grow as an organization and to adapt to changing community needs. We have transformed our print newsletter, The Chronicle, into a publication that highlights JCNCF’s work, while also informing you about the many events and activities that make our community vibrant. The Jewish Council made a commitment to strengthening our community partnerships, and thanks to our outreach with other Jewish organizations, JCNCF’s Mitzvah Day brought together the entire community for a day of service in sync with hundreds of Jewish groups around the world. Through our collaboration with the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Florida, the Gainesville Jewish Film Festival attracts larger crowds every year and we have been able to provide film offerings on par with festivals in large media markets. In an effort to innovate and freshen our programs, we celebrated Yom Ha’Atzmaut at the Jordan Glen School and Summer Camp, a local Jewish-owned business, complete with dancing, free range chickens and peacocks, and food trucks!

I am so proud that our community has a growing core of women dedicated to Jewish philanthropy. When the Beit Ruth Educational and Therapeutic Village was a mere concept, the women of our community wanted to make a difference in the lives of Israeli girls. This year, we sent over $10,000 to Beit Ruth, which now boasts a campus where girls can heal, learn and imagine a brighter future for themselves. I’m so incredibly proud of our efforts and I thank each and every one of you for supporting our Annual Campaign!

Our donors believe in strengthening our Jewish bonds and bringing the next generation forward. I am privileged to work together with you to accomplish this critical mission. Together, we do our part to repair the world. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, Chanukah and the secular New Year, may you find yourselves surrounded by the love, light and laughter of friends and family.

With love and appreciation,

Dawn Burgess-Krop

We Make A Difference, Locally and Globally
By Debby Kinman-Ford, PJ Library Co-coordinator

Several years ago, our community established PJ Library Gainesville. It was by accident really - when doing a Google search for grants in Jewish communities, I came upon a relatively new program funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation called the PJ Library. A simple concept - mail a book or CD to a Jewish child, ages 6 months old through 7 years old, every month to encourage Jewish family literacy. Fast forward several years and over 300 families in the Gainesville/Ocala area have received these amazing books.

This program, which is funded by the JCNCF and coordinated with the B’nai Israel Community Day School, currently mails 160 children’s books every month - that’s over 1,900 per year! But the PJ Library has grown beyond just monthly books. Our community now also offers monthly programs for our families that are social, educational and fun.

Amy Carson (above with daughter Cecelia) led PJ Library families in decorating placemats for Meals on Wheels and cards for Israeli soldiers for Mitzvah Day. Below: Miranda Bandyopadhyay (left) with Rachel Parks.

PJ Library Gainesville has made it possible for several Jewish musical artists to come to our area, including Rick Recht, Sheldon Low and most recently, Sam Glaser, entertaining families with contemporary Jewish music.

This last month, PJ Library joined the larger community in celebrating Mitzvah Day. As we conclude Mitzvah Day, our local PJ Library was thrilled to have had so many families turn out to help our greater Gainesville community improve. PJ Library is a strong ‘values based’ program offering education as well as comradery and we are so happy to see our families engage and involve themselves in our Jewish community.

PJ Library is so much more than just a book program!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14
5:45 TO 7:00 PM
Cong. B’nai Israel Social Hall
3830 NW 16th Blvd
Gainesville, FL 32605

Celebrate early Chanukah with PJ Library Family & Friends!
Enjoy a dairy dinner with menorah lighting and songs!

$20 PER FAMILY
Please bring a wrapped children’s book your child’s age to exchange.
For more information or to RSVP, please contact Debby Kinman-Ford at 352.376.1508 ext 110 or debby@bnaisraelcds.org
Israel in Brief: News and Developments

By Ralph Lowenstein

Necessity Breeds Innovation
Israel’s need to invent its own weaponry when major powers would not sell it military arms led the country inevitably into technological invention. Today, Israel is India’s second-largest supplier of military arms. Research into military technology led to leadership in digital technology. The U.S. Army has just chosen Israeli Military Industries to provide an active protection system for its armored personnel carriers – utilizing a combination of radar and electro-optical sensors to detect and intercept incoming missiles and rocket-propelled grenades. Virtually every modern nation has a research facility in Israel. Israel is the world leader in developing technology for driverless cars, with General Motors already on board with an R&D center in Tel Aviv, in association with Tel Aviv University, and Mercedes-Benz announcing in November that it would do the same. Almost every computer in the world now has parts or programs developed and often manufactured in Israel.

More Jews Elected to Congress
In the Nov. 8 election, the Jewish contingent in the House of Representatives grew from 19 to 23, with the number of Republicans doubling – from one to two. In the Senate, the number of Jews dropped from nine to eight. However, Jews in the GOP scored big with the election of Eric Greitens, a former Navy SEAL, who became the first Jewish governor of Missouri. (JTA)

So What Else is New at the UN?
The UN General Assembly continued its “piling on” ways in November by adopting 10 resolutions in one day singling out Israel for special investigation. The vote on the continuation of a special committee to expose supposed Israeli crimes was 86 countries in favor, with 71 abstaining and 7 opposed. It’s tough to be the only Jewish nation in the house. (UN Watch)

Important 100th Anniversary
Next year, 2017, will mark the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the statement by the World War I British war cabinet on Nov. 2, 1917, that it favored establishing a “Jewish homeland” in Palestine. Britain alone among the world’s nations embraced Zionism in 1917, and thousands of British, Australian and New Zealand soldiers – some of them Jewish volunteers – fought Turkey’s Ottoman empire to liberate the land of the Bible. Every Jewish school should devote time in 2018 to study the history of the Balfour Declaration, a cornerstone of the right of Israel to become a national homeland. (from an article in “Gatestone Institute,” by Col. Richard Kemp, former commander of British Forces in Afghanistan)

Completion of Jezreel Valley Rail Line
Israel Railways has completed a new 38-mile line from Haifa to Beit Shean. The railway runs through the Jezreel Valley and revives part of the line first built by the Ottoman Turks in the late 19th Century between Haifa and Damascus. The line includes 3 tunnels and 26 bridges.

Keeping Israel at Arm’s Length
According to Dennis Ross, a veteran Washington diplomat, Barack Obama joined four other recent Presidents – Eisenhower, Nixon, Carter and George H.W. Bush – in a “conscious decision to try to distance the U.S. from Israel.” Their assumption, Ross said, was that “Israel is more of a problem than it is a partner.” He said Obama’s premise was that “if you distance yourself from Israel, you’ll gain with the Arabs.” Ross concluded: “Every administration that has tried to distance itself from Israel has gained nothing.” (Jerusalem Post)

The Jewish Community of North Central Florida Welcomes Israeli Deputy Consul General Guy Gilady

Sunday, December 4 at 7 pm

Hosted at
Temple Shir Shalom
3853 NW 8th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32605

Sponsored by
The Jewish Council of North Central Florida

Event Hosts
Mark Werner & Yana Banks
Connie & Robert Stern

To reserve your seat, please RSVP by November 30. Contact the JCNF Office at 352.371.3846 or office@jcnf.org.

Jezreel Valley Railway. Photo source jpost.com (photo credit: ISRAEL ROADS)
Tikkun Olam with Ken Wald and Robin West

(Continued from page 1)

Ken’s formative years were shaped by his parents having both been Holocaust survivors. While his parents were not in the camps, both had to escape the Nazi dragnet and his father suffered the survivor guilt of losing his entire family. They settled in Nebraska, where Ken was raised amidst a community of survivor families who found solace in their common experience. Looking back, Ken realizes the damage his parents carried, but also recognized the traits that have shaped him - the powerful push to succeed while simultaneously keeping a low profile about success and religion. As example of service, Ken’s father was Treasurer of the Jewish Federation in Lincoln, Nebraska for 40 years.

Ken and Robin have recently retired from academia, both having achieved the honor of Professor Emeritus. Ken’s specialty in political science has focused on the role of religion in political behavior. He observes that when he initially developed this interest, no one in his field found this of interest or significance. There followed the civil rights movement which was largely driven by black churches and two significant historical/cultural events - the Islamic revolution and the rise of the Christian right. He muses that he and his friends created a field of political science and he wrote his first textbook on religion and politics which stimulated further research. He publishes a book series with Cambridge Press. Ken served as Director of the Center for Jewish Studies for five years and brought interesting speakers to our community.

Throughout her career, Robin has studied memory and aging, with a specialty in helping people maximize the memory performance at any age. She has had a special interest in how individual’s beliefs about memory effect their performance and has developed practical training techniques to help people enhance their memory. Robin received a national award in Applied Gerontology and provided many professional and community workshops on how to improve memory as you age. (You may have even attended one, but likely forgot.) She has published books on memory fitness, complete with daily exercises to maintain memory function.

Both Robin and Ken are particularly enthusiastic about their love of mentoring students over the years. They have won teaching awards and Ken has performed the weddings of two former students. They share the belief that nurturing relationships with undergraduate and graduate students are an essential aspect of academia.

Ken joined the JCNC board in 1991, when they returned from Israel. He notes the vital role of the Federation in assisting Jews to leave hostile environments and immigrate to Israel. He was living in Israel when the Ethiopian Jews arrived and met a plane from Russia to welcome the Russian Jews. Robin has been involved with social action projects for years and served on education committees. With retirement, she is looking forward to more time to volunteer. Ken has served in virtually every capacity on the JCNCF board and currently lends his valuable experience to the JCNCF executive committee.

When asked about their commitment to the Jewish community, and particularly JCNCF, Ken states, "I am so profoundly grateful for the vibrancy of Jewish life in Gainesville." He observes that it is "amazing to live in a community where you can do something Jewish every day." He closes with the essence of his service, "We can't take for granted that these institutions will be there. I want to make sure that the treasure I have received is there for future generations."

Robin and Ken savor their time with their two daughters, wonderful son-in-laws, and four grandchildren.
Election 2016: How Did the Chosen People Choose?

By Ken Wald, Distinguished Professor of Political Science at The University of Florida

If the 2016 election was about change, American Jews didn’t get the memo.

Jews began the year politically where they have been for more than eighty years—on the Democratic side of the partisan spectrum. They ended it by dividing their (two-party) vote roughly three to one in favor of the Democratic nominee. That was true of Jews nationally and in Florida.

Jews were in fact one of the very few voter groups to move toward the Democratic candidate compared to the 2012 results.

If you divide the American electorate into religious slices, the two most pro-Republican groups are evangelical Protestants and Mormons. Both groups voted heavily in favor of Donald Trump in 2016.

Mainline Protestants and Roman Catholics cluster closer to the middle of the political spectrum. In 2016, both groups gave a majority of their votes (again, using the two-party figure) to Donald Trump.

Jews were joined in 2016 by a group of predominantly Democratic constituencies: Latino Catholics, the religiously unaffiliated, African Americans and probably American Muslims. (There aren’t enough Muslims in the exit polls to be certain but all signs suggest they continued a pro-Democratic voting trend that began in 2004.)

The most striking thing about Jewish voting is its stability. In the 1930s, when Franklin Roosevelt wove the New Deal coalition together, the religious alignment was very different.

The Republican base comprised Mainline Protestants and, to the extent they could vote, African Americans who remembered the GOP as the party of Lincoln. Roosevelt’s majority coalition was composed of Roman Catholics, Evangelicals (mostly Southerners who also remembered the GOP as the party of Lincoln and voted against it), trade unionists in the North, and Jews.

Since then, virtually every group has changed partisan hues. Some moved slowly in a Republican direction (Evangelicals) and some moved suddenly toward the Democrats (African Americans). From different sides, Roman Catholics and Mainline Protestants slid closer to the center.

What has kept the bulk of the Jewish electorate anchored on the Democratic side of the partisan divide?

There is no shortage of theories to explain why Jews remain so strongly Democratic. In my view, Jews have remained more Democratic than other groups because they regard the Democrats as more committed than the Republicans to what I call the liberal regime of religion and state.

In simple terms, Jews believe the American constitution created a secular state and that state is the reason they’ve accomplished so much in the United States. They regard the Democrats as better guardians of that tradition, all the more so since the Republicans have tilted so heavily toward Evangelical Protestsants who support more overt religiosity in public life.

Not all Jews share this (or any other) view. In religious terms, commitment to the Democrats is highest among Jews who are Reform, Conservative, ethnic Jews, or who pick the “Just Jewish” label. The two major outliers are the Orthodox, both modern Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox, who strongly favor the GOP. Largely because they associated the Republicans with anti-Communism, the Russians who immigrated to the US after 1989 have also voted for the GOP but that trend is already weakening.

Two things did change in 2016. Both major party presidential candidates had Jewish grandchildren and a Jew, Bernie Sanders, won a major party presidential primary. The third and fourth-place finishers, the Libertarians and Greens respectively, each had a Jewish candidate on their ticket.

You’ll notice that I’ve avoided using the “blue” and “red” labels to describe the parties because THE COLORS ARE WRONG. Throughout history, blue has been the color of royalty (blue bloods) and red the color assigned to revolutionaries (remember Red China?). Just like we Americans can’t understand the metric system or use “football” to describe the sport that depends on the foot, we can’t even get two simple colors properly connected to the right political movements. We can do better.

*The author, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Florida, is writing a book about the political behavior of American Jews.
JCNCF’s Eighth Annual

9 members of the Storch family prepared breakfast for families staying at Ronald McDonald House and cleaned two rooms at the facility. “They were very grateful for our participation, and their gratitude made us feel very good. We were reminded how fortunate we are.”

- Marcia Storch

A team of volunteers got up extra early to be at Habitat for Humanity to roll up their sleeves and help build a home for those without. Randy Kraft shown here at right.

Volunteer Tamara Boskovic left a message of hope written on the interior of the home’s door frame: “I hope there are many great memories made in this house. May your life be filled with love and joy!”

450 pounds of donated pet food ÷ by 2 hours and 15 volunteers = 173 bags of cat food, 131 bags of dog food, 10 cans of dog food, 1 small dog bed, 1 large bag of pet leashes, collars & toys!

Under the direction of Dr. Eloise Harman, 6 community volunteers and several UF students from Chabad made 125 bagged lunches for the homeless at Grace Market Place and Dignity Village.

Dr. David Pawliger, at right, has been leading the Adopt-a-Street clean up team to keep 8th Avenue clean since the first Mitzvah Day in 2010. The team of 9 volunteers collected 10 garbage bags of trash and recyclables. Russ Hirshik and Elaine Jacobson are also pictured.

I hope there are many great memories made in this house. May your life be filled with love and joy!”
Community Mitzvah Day

9 teens and 5 adults made 29 casseroles to feed the hungry at Grace Marketplace and Helping Hands Clinic.

2 rooms stacked 3 feet high were sorted by volunteers into 2 bags of sweat shirts and pants for ARC, 9 bags of clothing for Helping Hands Clinic, 12 bags of professional clothing for Displaced Homemakers, 3 bags of clothing for PACE Center for Girls, 2 bags of professional clothing for BOLD, 5 bags of winter clothing for Grace Market Place, 5 bags of children’s clothing for Pine Ridge After School Program. B’nai Israel also collected 10 bags of winter clothing.

From Sharon Hirshik (in photo above): “Because of you, people will have warm clothes to wear, the proper attire for interviews and good clothes to add to their wardrobes. You truly did a Mitzvah on Mitzvah Day and the whole community is grateful.”

Jan Snyder and her team of 7 volunteers at The Village assembled packages of essential items for the homeless that were donated to Grace Market Place and Dignity Village.

From Jan Snyder (in center of photo above): “It was lovely to feel that people of all ages are linked together in mitzvah day. I brought the bags out to Grace Marketplace right afterwards, and saw for myself how the residents there appreciated these care packages.”

At B’nai Israel, 1,000 pounds of food were delivered to Food 4 Kids and schools in Marion County.

Project Team Leaders
Steve Bobroff
Kim Feigenbaum
Eloise Harman
Sharon Hirshik
Erin King
Jennifer Meiselman Titus
David Pawliger
Jennifer Petrescu
Jenna Price
Dick Sadove
Jan Snyder
Marcia Storch
Debra Trione
Chavaya Religious School
CBI Sisterhood
CBI Men’s Club
TSS Social Action Committee

Thank You!

Troop 709 worked alongside families in the Family Promise program to talk about ways different cultures express thanks and gratitude. From making paper lanterns, harvest crowns and sukkahs of graham crackers and Fluff, the girls helped understand the ways in which we say "thanks".
UF Hillel Celebrates Sukkot with ‘Harvest For The Hungry’

On October 12, 70 volunteers with UF Hillel made 200 bagged lunches for St. Francis House.

By Shaina Plotkin, UF Hillel Public Relations Intern

There are more than 2,000 homeless families and individuals in the city of Gainesville, and just a few short weeks ago, UF Hillel in collaboration with Jewish Student Union, celebrated the Jewish holiday of Sukkot by making bagged meals to help feed the hungry and the homeless at Gainesville’s local shelter, St. Francis House.

UF Hillel started off the holiday season by giving back to the community they call home with an event called ‘Harvest For The Hungry’. With an influx of volunteers, students came together as a community to help those less fortunate. Rachel Reindl, the Non-Profit Intern at UF Hillel says, “Food is a huge part of Sukkot and Jewish culture, so I think it is extremely fitting for us to provide meals to those who are in need. It was such a great opportunity for UF Hillel to partner with JSU and St. Francis House to strengthen our commitment and impact on the local community of Gainesville.” Reindl goes on to say, “We made about 200 bag lunches in one day. We owe our success to the 70 students from the University of Florida and Santa Fe who came out. We couldn’t have done it without them!”

Rabbi Adam Grossman, CEO of UF Hillel says, “In Judaism we like to call it ‘Tikkun Olam’, repairing the world. The Torah repeatedly expresses the obligation to help those who, for whatever reason, could not help themselves. The students at UF Hillel and Santa Fe have a passion for helping others. I am beyond proud of them for all of the work they have done and I am very satisfied with the outcome from the event.” Grossman goes on to say, “At UF Hillel we envision a world made better because of the impact of our future leaders. We believe the way to engage emerging leaders is through their interests in career, travel, and social good. In the end, we want our students to find a greater purpose in life, we want them to strive, and most importantly, we want them to experience.”
Mega Challah Bake Experience at Chabad

By Cory Hartstein, Class of 2017

On Thursday November 10, over 350 Jewish students from all walks of life here at the University of Florida joined together at the Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student Center for the third annual Mega Challah Bake. At the Challah Bake students took part in learning how to bake a Challah and were given the tools and environment to make a delicious Challah while having fun with their friends. Different organizations such as the Jewish Student Union, Hillel, and many Fraternities & Sororities came together and took part in this exciting experience. It was a spectacular evening where young Jewish adults gathered together in a jam-packed room, baked hundreds of Challahs, and created lasting memories. I know for me this experience was extra special for I have never personally baked a Challah in my life. This experience not only inspired students but it also conveyed to them the significance of the Challah and how the sight of the traditional twisted loaves revives the Jewish soul with the reminder that Shabbat is nearby.
Cong. B’nai Israel to Host Food Festival in January

By Jenifer Petrescu, Executive Director of Cong. B’nai Israel

Food. It’s what brings community together—whether it’s following Shabbat services with Kiddush lunch or celebrating a special simcha, doing our part to console a grieving family, or lending an ear to a friend over coffee, we all recognize the role food plays in our interpersonal relationships. Congregation B’nai Israel seeks to bring its congregants and community members together with programming geared toward the focal point of societal interactions. B’nai Israel strives to tailor our programming to align with our core pillars of our mission—prayer, engagement and education.

Prayer
Each week, dedicated kitchen volunteers work in the kitchen to prepare a Kiddush luncheon for the congregants following services. This meal among friends, creates a feeling of ruach and companionship following the services. Each holiday has a meal that we prepare for, with latkes at Chanukah, a special Tu B’shevat program and a community seder at Pesach there are many special meals planned in celebration of these holidays. In the spring, there will also be a compilation cookbook available for sale that is focused on Jewish Comfort Food with recipes submitted from the congregation.

Education
This year’s programmatic focus was to set up our adult education classes to speak to the various components of mean time. With a class entitled “Jewish Food—What is it?”, retired UF professor, Richard Scher is leading a class designed not on the “how to” of cooking but rather on the theory and philosophy behind it. The class reflects on the rich cultural varieties of Jewish life, and their centuries-long traditions with special focus on the Ashkenazi, Sephardic, Mizrahi, Persian, Yemenite, Indian, Latin American, and others.

Also being offered are the hands-on kitchen demonstrations, one focused on traditional Israeli cuisine and the other focused on the courses of a dinner party. The dinner party cooking class will be led by Ms. Alice Robar. Ms. Robar completed a year of study in both cuisine and patisserie at the Cordon Bleu Culinary Institute in 2000. Highlights of her experience have serving as Head Chef for Grosvenor Estates and The Duke of Westminster as well as Catering at the family home of Princess Diana for Earl Spencer. This 4 week course, offered beginning January 18, 2017 will see each class focused on one course of a dinner party and offer hands-on cooking demonstrations.

Engagement
Each month, our congregants sign up to bring dinner to St. Francis House through the Lev Tov program. This program engages families to help prepare and serve a meal for the homeless. The year round food collection for Bread of the Might Food Bank sees donations of 1000 pounds of food each year. This year, Chavaya Religious School led a Mitzvah Day project to supply 20 families with food staples for the public school winter break holiday through Food4Kids, a program geared towards ensuring no child goes hungry.

These programs and classes will culminate with our first ever Jewish Food Festival, hosted at Congregation B’nai Israel and sponsored in part by a grant from JCNCF. This festival will feature the charm and food of a kosher delicatessen right in the heart of Gainesville. Being held on Sunday, February 26, this festival is open to the whole community and we seek to celebrate and share Jewish cuisine with a wonderful event. More details will be available in the January 2017 Chronicle. We are excited about these exciting opportunities and sharing them with our 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@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!

Mazel tov to Alyssa Krop-Brandfon & Josh Brandfon and grandparents, Dawn Burgess-Krop and Harry Krop on the birth of Asher Micah Brandfon on Saturday, November 19.

Mazel tov to Emi Lenes and Anthony Cortez, who were married in October.

Mazel tov to Andrew Warren, son of Michael and Phyllis Warren, who was elected as Hillsborough County’s newest State Attorney in November. Before launching his campaign, Andrew served with the US Department of Justice for ten years, where he was recognized with the 2013 Attorney General Award for Trial Litigation. Andrew lives in Tampa with his wife Alexandra and daughters, Elliott and Lucy.

In Memoriam

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

Edward Trione,
Father of Debra Trione and Paul Okunieff

Gretti Izak,
Sister of Sam and Roma Decalo

Idella Lichter
Wife of Joe Lichter z”l

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.
North Central Florida Congregations & Organizations

Gainesville

B’nai Israel Community Day School (DS)
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www.bnaiisraelcds.org
352.376.1508, ext 101

Center for Jewish Studies
at the University of Florida (CJS)
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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
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Gainesville, FL 32611
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The Tabacinic Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish
Student & Community Center (LCJC)
Rabbi Berl & Chanie Goldman, Directors
Rabbi Aharon Chaim & Pessie Notik, Co-Directors
www.jewishgator.com
2021 NW 5th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32603
352.336.5877

Temple Shir Shalom (TSS)
Rabbi Michael Joseph
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
Marion County & The Villages (CLJC)
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, 34476
352.450.2056

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

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

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

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

Save the Date for JCNCF’s Annual
Fundraiser to Benefit Beit Ruth
Sunday, January 29
Time and Location TBA
The Jews of Africa and the Complexity of Origins

February 2 at 7 pm
The Oak Room at Oak Hammock

The Jewish Council is partnering with the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica to offer a fascinating talk by Professor Tudor Parfitt (SOAS, FIU), the leading expert on the history of Jews in Africa, and Remy Ilona, his student and a member of the community of Igbo Jews. The talk will offer two different perspectives on the origins of Igbo Jewish ancestry and it will shed light on the complexity of African Jewish history. Igbo Jews, like Ilona, regard themselves as descendants of the ancient tribes of Israel and can offer up evidence of ancient practices. Yet, in his recent book Black Jews in Africa and the Americas, Parfitt shows how Africans were often labelled as Israelites by colonialists, travelers, and missionaries in an attempt to explain and understand the strange people they encountered on the colonial frontier. This identity was then adopted by Africans who offered up common traditional practices as proof of a racial relationship to the Jews.

Professor Parfitt has been featured on PBS and frequently is referred to as “the British Indiana Jones.” To learn more about Professor Parfitt and Mr. Ilona before the program, please read the following:

http://www.miamiherald.com/living/article1951282.html
http://religion.fiu.edu/faculty/full-time-faculty/tudor-parfitt/

This event is free and open to the community. For more information, please contact the Jewish Council at 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org.
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Save These Dates

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<td>December 14 at 5:45 pm</td>
<td>PJ Library Family Chanukah Party</td>
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