Healing the World Locally & Globally
Seventh Annual JCNCF Community Mitzvah Day
Sunday, November 22 at Hillel

By Virginia Brissette Hirshik
JCNCF Executive Director

On Sunday, November 22, thousands of Jews, representing hundreds of organizations around the world, will gather in synagogues and community centers to perform acts of lovingkindness. An individual’s obligation to engage in tikkun olam—Hebrew for healing the world—is one of the central messages of Judaism and the main mission of Mitzvah Day International, which encourages people to give their time to worthwhile local causes, while also creating deeper links within communities and supporting charities.

The Jewish Community of North Central Florida will mark the seventh year of doing good deeds as a collective, and Mitzvah Day International has been promoting this annual day of service for 10 years! This will be the first year that the JCNCF, in partnership with area congregations and the university, will hold its Mitzvah Day in conjunction with this annual global day of service.

Mitzvah Day International was founded in 2005 by Laura Marks, who, upon returning to her native United Kingdom from a period spent in Los Angeles, decided to bring the “Mitzvah Day” concept she experienced through Temple Israel of Hollywood, California, back to the UK. Though the Mitzvah Day she was familiar with (and most Mitzvah Days in the United States) was based around a single community or congregation, her concept for Mitzvah Day in the UK was to unite the Jewish community and other groups around a single coordinated day of social action across the country. Mitzvah Day became registered as an independent charity in the UK in 2008.

According to Mitzvah Day International, in 2014, over 37,000 people participated in Mitzvah Day around the world. In many communities, Mitzvah Day has expanded to include participants from other faith communities as well.

This year’s Mitzvah Day will kick off at 9 am at Hillel with registration, breakfast, and opening remarks from Climb for Cancer’s founder, Ron Farb. Community members interested in volunteering on Mitzvah Day should visit www.jcncf.org for more information and to register.

More Mitzvah Day details on page 6

Tikkun Olam with Andy & Sharon Hirshik

By Tamara Segal

Love is blind, as they say, and so proved Sharon and Andy Hirshik, who just celebrated the 51st anniversary of their first date. After meeting on a blind date at Rye Beach Amusement Park in Westchester, New York, they went on a roller coaster together, which marked the beginning of the thrills and adventures they would share. It was a tale of love at first sight: Sharon, just 17 and a senior in high school, Andy, a freshman heading to college. They wed one week after Sharon graduated from Russell Sage College.

And they never got off the roller coaster. Andy began working in aerospace on Long Island while Sharon taught kindergarten. Then Andy went to work for IBM. Four years later, their son Eric was born. He celebrated his first birthday in Böeblingen, Germany, where Andy was sent on assignment by IBM, with his family. Andy was then transferred back to IBM in Kingston, New York, and the family lived in Woodstock. Soon son Russ was born.

The Hirshiks have also lived in Northern California, London, Massachusetts, and eventually the Sunshine State, starting with 11 years in Boca Raton, where Sharon taught and then became the director of the Lower School at Donna Klein Jewish
The Jews Of Kaifeng: A Talk by Alice Bolocan, Ph.D.
At On Top of the World, Sunday, November 8 at 11 am

By Judi Siegel
On Sunday, November 8, 2015, at 11 am, Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala is hosting a lecture by Alice Bolocan, Ph.D., on the Kaifeng Jewish Heritage Project, whose ultimate goal is the creation of a better understanding of the interaction of Jewish and Chinese heritages and how the Jewish community in Kaifeng lived harmoniously with its neighbors of different faiths for a thousand years.

Ms. Bolocan’s dual backgrounds in academia and in commerce via her training and professional experiences in anthropology/archaeology, East Asian studies, commercial real estate development, tourism development, and investment banking will serve her well in designing, structuring, staffing, and financing the project.

A Chinese lunch catered by the Yummy House of Ocala will be served following the lecture. Cost for the luncheon and the presentation at On Top of the World, Candler Hills Community Center, 8143 SW 90th Terrace Road, Ocala, is $12.

Kindly make your reservation by November 1, 2015. Please contact Lois at 352.291.1308 or Janis at 352.861.6732. For further information, please contact Judi at 352.237.8277.
SmartConversations with the 92nd Street Y
At Congregation B’nai Israel, Sunday, November 8 at 8 pm

By Rebecca Howard

Friends who live in New York City often laud the programs and lectures offered by the 92nd Street Y. Thanks to a grant from the Jewish Council of North Central Florida, Gainesville had a chance to experience one of these extremely informative programs through the wonders of live streaming. Participants were Dennis Ross, author and diplomat extraordinaire, who has had years of experience in Mideast peace negotiations under several U.S. presidents, and Alan Dershowitz, professor of law emeritus at Harvard and long-time friend of and advisor to President Obama. The moderator was Ethan Bronner, senior editor of international relations for Bloomberg News.

The presentation was supposed to focus solely on U.S.-Israel relations, but recent violence in Israel prompted a different line of questioning. Ross and Dershowitz examined the causes of the violence, which they attributed, among other things, to false claims that Israel intends to change the status of the Temple Mount.

The media came in for harsh criticism for drawing a moral equivalency between the perpetrators of violence and the Israelis, who live in the area’s only democracy.

Ross and Dershowitz discussed, quite critically, Obama’s relations with Israel, noting that, although the president is a friend of Israel, in his second term he has acted based on ideology rather than on policy. They then responded to a final line of questioning about the U.S. role in Syria, Iran, and the entire Middle East. Both speakers contended that Obama has weighed the cost of action much more carefully than the cost of inaction, leading to a vacuum filled by the worst actors. They also expressed hopes that Israel would receive weapons that enable it and the U.S. to show the world that the U.S. is committed to enforcing the nuclear agreement with Iran.

B’nai Israel Hosting Israeli Culture & Art Festival
Sunday, November 15, 10 am to 2 pm

By Suzanne Chester & Jenifer Petrescu

Congregation B’nai Israel’s religious school, Chavaya, is hosting its first Israeli Culture and Art Festival on Sunday, November 15, from 10am to 2pm, funded in part by a grant from JCNCF. Chavaya utilizes experiential learning, and to accentuate the curriculum we will experience a taste of Israel right here in Gainesville!

Having the opportunity to visit Israel and enjoy the sites and sounds of Tel Aviv, the history of Jerusalem, the desert region of Eilat, and everywhere in between is something that we hope for ourselves and each of our children to experience. This year Chavaya invites the entire community to join us in celebrating Israel.

The State of Israel is pivotal to an understanding of modern Jewish life. As Jews we experience much of our Judaism through the lens of the existence of the country of Israel. This festival will celebrate the diversity of Jewish experience in Israel, and we will have the opportunity to feel closer and more involved in Jewish living through involvement in each of the activity areas. Children will be able to take a tour of Israel, visiting Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Eilat, and have their passports stamped along the way for a prize at the end of the day. With Israeli music, artisans, pop culture activities, and delicious food, there will be something for everyone at this community-wide event.

Adults can experience an Israeli wine tasting. Older teens and adults can enjoy an art lesson and make their own Israeli painting. Younger attendees will have a blast in the Kids’ Zone. Food and art will be available for purchase, and you can get a head start on your Chanukah shopping!

The Chavaya Israeli Culture and Art Festival is also an opportunity for our community’s students to be intimately involved in every aspect of Jewish life through the lens of Israeli culture and society. Chavaya students have been learning about and preparing the displays and events for the festival. Along with parents and teachers, they are enjoying the opportunity to research and design interactive experiences that express the continuum of Jewish life.

It will be a great day with our community, and we hope to see you there!
By Dawn Burgess-Krop
JCNCF President

JCNCF had the opportunity at our October Campaign Kick-Off to host Samantha Dubrinsky, an accomplished millennial who works for the Jewish Federation in Birmingham, Alabama. Samantha came to share her experiences of having been to Paris immediately after the Charlie Hebdo and Hyper Cacher murders and to the Ukraine to check on the status of Jews outside Odessa, where her family is from. The stories Samantha shared were both inspiring and troubling, reflective of the indomitable spirit of Jews unwilling to be driven from their homes by anti-Semitism and the desperation of others trapped by poverty and circumstances they cannot escape.

This past summer, my husband and I were fortunate to be in Europe with our grandsons, one age ten, the other a bar mitzvah this past spring. We visited many Jewish sites, but the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam stood out to the boys because of their familiarity with Anne’s story. It was sobering to hear of the Frank family’s desperation to escape the clutches of the Nazis, only to ultimately be captured and perish, with the exception of the father. Although I have visited this site before, the tenor of the anti-Semitism currently permeating Europe made the impact more profound. I pondered the safety we casually take for granted in the United States and how we are able to go about our business with rare concerns about being targeted because we are Jews, in contrast to the caution and anxiety experienced today by Jews in Europe.

From my perspective, we have two significant obligations: to impart the vital aspects of Jewish identity and life to our children and to help our fellow Jews who need us now.

There are many ways to embrace those obligations in our community. At JCNCF, we seek to bind together our diverse Jewish community through Jewish cultural and educational experiences and opportunities for young and old to affiliate with fellow Jews. Also, through your donations and in affiliation with the Jewish Federations of North America, housebound elderly in Ukraine get visits to ensure they have food and heating. New immigrants to Israel, many fleeing rising anti-Semitism, are assisted in learning Hebrew and making Israel their new home. Disadvantaged youth in Israel benefit from programs we support directly every year.

I hope to see you at Mitzvah Day, at our Chanukah party, the Jewish Film Festival, and the many times we can interact as the vibrant and stimulating Jewish community we are lucky to have in our little corner of the world. And I hope you will find a way to help our efforts with your financial support.

To all who contribute to our campaign, I truly thank you. For those who read the Chronicle and think you should help but don’t get around to it, I urge you to make a contribution to our current campaign. We need your help, and I hope you will be a part of helping those who need us to remember them.
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Israel in Brief: News and Developments

By Ralph Lowenstein

No Minyan in Egypt. Only one man and seven elderly women—the last remnants of Egyptian Jewry—showed up for Rosh Hashanah services this year at the Shaar Hashamayim synagogue in downtown Cairo. At its population peak, there were about 80,000 Egyptian Jews. Virtually all either emigrated or were expelled following the Egyptian–Israeli wars of 1948, 1967, and 1973, with most choosing to resettle in Israel.

F-35 Stealth Fighter. The Israeli version of the U.S. F-35 stealth fighter will double its normal flying range with Israeli modifications. Israel will receive its first 2 of 33 planes from Lockheed Martin in December 2016. According to Globes, a British business magazine, one of the officers who will fly the Israeli version of the plane has said, “The things that we could do before will entail much less risk, and the things we might not have been able to do before will be rendered doable.” Israel will pay a reported $110 million for each plane, while Lockheed Martin will buy Israeli-made parts and systems for a reported $4 billion. Eventually, Israel’s entire fleet of fighter/bombers will be replaced by F-35s.

Boycotting Netanyahu. The U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Samantha Power, was absent when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke to the UN General Assembly on October 1. Credible sources say she had been instructed to stay away. Also absent was Secretary of State John Kerry, although he was in New York City that day.

India Buys Drones. India last month approved the purchase of 10 missile-armed drones from Israel for $400 million. Israeli surveillance drones have also been recently purchased by Switzerland and Russia.

Israel’s Population. On the eve of Rosh Hashanah, Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics reported that Israel’s population now stands at 8.4 million persons: 6.3 million Jews (74.9%), 1.7 million Arabs (20.7%), and 366,000 non-Arab Christians and others (4.4%). In 1939, England closed the gates of Palestine (including what is now Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank) to all but a trickle of European Jews on the basis of its own estimates that the land could support no more than 3 million persons.

Fact and Belief. Writing a front-page story for the New York Times on September 15 on the clashes between Jews and Arabs on the Temple Mount, reporter Diaa Hadid wrote that it was the site “of two ancient temples believed to have once stood” there. Amazing that the First and Second Temples now seem to fall into the “belief,” not fact, category for the editors of the New York Times.

Meanwhile, Muslims demand their exclusive right to the Temple Mount, which they call the Noble Sanctuary, on the basis of a passage in the Koran which says that around 700 A.D. Muhammad mounted a winged horse named Buraq and in one night flew the round trip from Mecca to Jerusalem (1,538 miles total). According to Muslim belief, while on the Temple Mount, Muhammad ascended to Heaven and had a conversation with Moses and Jesus.

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Projects Sponsored by
Congregation B’nai Israel
3835 NW 16th Blvd, 32605

Food Drive for
Bread of the Mighty

PJ Library Literacy Matters
New and gently used
children’s book collection
for the Early Learning Coalition

Casserole Brigade to benefit:
St. Francis House
Helping Hands Clinic
Fisher House

Critical Items Needed
Egg noodles, macaroni, bags of
frozen vegetables, shredded
cheese, cans of tuna fish

Food4Kids Weekend Backpacks
Critical Items Needed
New backpacks,
school supplies, snacks,

Gemilut Chasadim Hospice
Care Packages
Critical Items Needed
Collecting puzzles, sudoku, cross-
words, hard candies, magazines,
generic stationery, note pads, etc.

Bundles of Warmth for
St. Francis House
Critical Items Needed
Scarves, socks, hats & outerwear

Projects Sponsored by
Hillel at UF
2020 W. University Ave, 32603

Thank you to our community
partners who make Mitzvah
Day possible every year.

Thank you to Rabbi Adam
Grossman and the staff and
students of Hillel for hosting
the community breakfast and
registration this year!

Food Drive for
Bread of the Mighty

Make Lunches and Care
Packages for Grace Marketplace

Critical Items Needed
Bread, jars of peanut butter
& jelly, snacks, T-shirts, socks,
travel sized toiletries

Make Care Packages to Send
to Israeli Lone Soldiers

Critical Items Needed
T-shirts, socks,
Travel-size toiletries,
sponsorship for shipping

Clean up and plant at the
Hillel Garden

Fold Origami Cranes for
Joey’s Wings

Bundles of Warmth for
St. Francis House
Critical Items Needed
Scarves, socks, hats & outerwear

Projects Sponsored by
The Jewish Council
Hosted at Hillel

PJ Library Family Fun
Mitzvah Project Circuit
Make cards and write notes
to Israeli Lone Soldiers
Make snack bags for
Meals on Wheels and the
Pine Ridge After School Program
Make napkin rings and
placemats for senior
Thanksgiving baskets

BELIEVE
THERE IS
GOOD IN
THE WORLD
Seventh Annual JCNCF Community Mitzvah Day
Sunday, November 22
Registration, Breakfast & Opening Program at Hillel
Special Guest Speaker, Ron Farb
Founder of Climb for Cancer
International’s 10th year!

Volunteer opportunities and www.jcncf.org or call 352.371.3846

Projects Sponsored by
The Jewish Council
3835 NW 8th Ave, 32605
At the JCNCF office
Food Drive for Bread of the Mighty

Move-in Care Packages to Benefit Peaceful Paths
Critical Items Needed
New and gently used household goods: cooking and dining utensils, bedroom, and bathroom linens

Hosted at Temple Shir Shalom

Clothing collection and sorting for:
ARC of Alachua County
Displaced Homemakers
Helping Hands Clinic
PACE
Pine Ridge After School Program
Reichert House
Tacachale

Critical Items Needed
New and used men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing, socks, shoes

St. Francis House Pet Care Clinic
Food and Supply Drive
Critical Items Needed
Dog & cat food, treats, bowls, leashes, plastic bags

Offsite in Gainesville:
8th Avenue Adopt a Street Clean Up

Projects Sponsored by
Temple Shir Shalom
3855 NW 8th Ave, 32605

Food Drive for Bread of the Mighty

The Social Action Committee at Temple Shir Shalom is sponsoring a home renovation project for Habitat for Humanity

Projects to Benefit:
The Jaffa Institute
Chabad Terror Victims
Project Israel
Thanksgiving Smiles for Seniors

Support Mitzvah Day with a cash gift or by donating supplies needed for our many service projects!

- $5 is a lunch and toiletry bag for a homeless person
- $10 for a casserole
- $18 for a hospice care package
- $36 for one Lone Soldier care package with shipping
- $54 for a weekend backpack
- Take advantage of BOGO offers - buy one and donate the other!

Thank you for supporting Mitzvah Day!

Projects Sponsored by the
Lubavitch-Chabad
Jewish Student & Community Center
2021 NW 5th Ave, 32603

Projects to Benefit:
The Jaffa Institute
Chabad Terror Victims
Project Israel
Thanksgiving Smiles for Seniors

St. Francis House Pet Care Clinic
Food and Supply Drive
Critical Items Needed
Dog & cat food, treats, bowls, leashes, plastic bags

Offsite in Gainesville:
8th Avenue Adopt a Street Clean Up

Repairs the World, one Mitzvah at a Time
Tikkun Olam

Cheshvan - Kislev 5776
By Dawn Burgess-Krop

Israel is a particularly difficult country for which to plan a trip. For such a small place, there are so many historical, archeological, experiential, and meaningful things to see and do that planning an itinerary is a daunting task. However, when one considers that the Negev Desert comprises 60% of Israel’s land mass, the choice to spend valuable vacation time there seemed less ill-conceived than one might think. I have always been a nerd for geological formations and thus had promised myself time in the Negev on my next trip to Israel.

Exploring the Ramon Crater (Makhtesh Ramon) was the goal of my recent adventure in the desert. We hired a naturalist guide, and it was money well spent. We explored and climbed, gaped in awe, and learned a great deal.

The Ramon Crater is neither an impact (meteor) or volcanic crater, but it is the largest of three such craters in the Negev. Hundreds of millions of years ago, the Negev was covered by an ocean. As the waters receded, they left behind a hump-shaped hill that cracked and was eroded over five million years. The rivers and erosion continued to carve out the crater and deepen the walls while surrounding rock collapsed into itself. The result is the world’s largest makhtesh, which is Hebrew for this geological landform that is unique to the Negev and the Sinai peninsula (my apologies to actual geologists if this abbreviated explanation is inadequate).
Out and About in the Negev: Geology Like No Other

Two ibex go head to head to see who will become Dawn’s new pet.

This vast expanse is utterly breathtaking. The rocks exposed at the bottom of the crater are up to 200 million years old. The deepest point, Ein Saharonim, yields the only natural water source, which sustains the wildlife living there and migrating through from the African savannah and the Arabian desert. The trail through this crater was called the Incense Route and was used by the Nabataeans 2,000 years ago to travel from Petra (in today’s Jordan) to the port of Gaza. Today, the makhtesh is explored by small numbers of tourists seeking to explore its wonders.

Mitzpe Ramon is a small town that sits atop the Ramon Crater. It comprises an assortment of small hotels, campsites, and hostels in a desolate area. My husband and I stayed overnight in the pursuit of my second dream goal—stargazing—reputed to be spectacular in a setting where there is clear air and no lights. However, our night in Mitzpe Ramon was heralded by a huge storm with driving rain and whirling wind. Stargazing was definitely off the agenda.

After the full day exploring the crater, we were hungry and sought sustenance in a vegetarian restaurant that looked like the set of the television show Northern Exposure: a center stove, dogs and cats roaming about, and local residents with children running around. The place had a funky character, and we were the only tourists. No one dared to go outside, but we did enjoy some pretty delicious soup.

Exploring the Ramon Crater was truly a memorable experience. Seeing it in early January allowed us to avoid the devastating heat of other times of year, but it also risked the inclement weather. I departed, wanting an ibex as a pet, and resolved to come back for stargazing. There is so much to do in Israel, and this excursion was a peak experience.
Music Lessons: Where Children Play, Learn, Grow, Connect

By Ruth Sherwood

with a little help from her friends

Music soothes the soul, lifts our spirit, and is the tie that binds. In Gainesville we are fortunate to have wonderful opportunities for children to experience music as an integral part of their Jewish culture and heritage.

Academy of Music and Art &
Gainesville Guitar Academy owner/
director Rebecca Micha, Ph.D., says that music training beginning in early childhood contributes to the creativity and skills with which children learn language and math. Singing and playing a wide variety of individual instruments are taught at her school, and children of all ages perform in ensembles, jam sessions, and concerts. Through these experiences they learn to work as a team, to listen, and to encourage each other.

Musica is a program developed by Karen Cohen (photo at left) for all children in the community. The philosophy behind Musica is to encourage young children to become familiar with musical patterns, concepts, and sounds while learning Hebrew language skills through music. The repertoire of songs fosters development of key Hebrew words and promotes familiarity with the sound of the language so that when the child encounters Hebrew it will be like meeting an old friend. Parents are involved in the sessions with their children, making this a unifying and rewarding experience for everyone. The next program will start in January 2016 at B’nai Israel and will meet on the third Saturday of each month in the late morning. For more information, please contact Karen at babymusica@cox.net.

Jonathan Cohen, Karen’s husband and professor of law at UF, is the new music specialist at Temple Shir Shalom. On Sunday mornings, he offers a Havdalah service to begin morning studies and travels from classroom to classroom to introduce some of the music that is in the new Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) curriculum that TSS has adopted this year with financial assistance in the form of a grant from JCNCF. The curriculum includes a participatory musical component.

Also new this year to TSS is Ari Sharfstein, a senior and music major at UF who is studying with Paul Richards. Ari has a song-leading background and once a month he plays guitar and sings while inviting family participation in the Friday night Shabbat service. Paul Richards provides cantorial support and engaging guitar. Ari also uses his guitar in the B’nai Israel Chavaya (experience) program, teaching Jewish holiday songs throughout the year and musical numbers for the annual show. He takes great satisfaction in watching the children learn Hebrew and acquire knowledge of their Jewish culture through music.
Rabbi Michael Joseph also has a love of music and sometimes uses his iPad to create musical Shabbats at TSS, perhaps playing several versions of a well-known Hebrew melody or teaching the congregation a new song.

Suzanne Chester, principal of Chavaya at B’nai Israel, uses music to make learning Hebrew more fun and to increase fluency. The highlight of the academic year is the production of a show or a concert performed entirely in Hebrew. The children experience great camaraderie while enhancing their knowledge of Hebrew in a fun and joyful way.

On Thursday mornings at B’nai Israel Community Day School, there’s a lot of shaking and singing going on. With their music teacher, Dawn Burgess-Krop, children from two to five learn to be song leaders in front of a group and play percussion instruments as they develop the skills of listening for the music to begin, keeping time, and bowing at the end of their performances.

Music enhances listening skills in children, learning rhythm, understanding rhyming, and sequencing and memorization. The skills learned in music are all critical pre-reading skills. In addition to all the valuable skills music offers, there’s a lot of silliness and fun to be had. At what other time in your life do you get to crow like a rooster?

In all of these musical venues, children learn the many concepts of music and the interaction and cooperation inherent in creating music together. These experiences all take place in Jewish and academic environments, so children are absorbing Jewish culture and knowledge through learning music, including holiday songs and the Hebrew language, and all through fresh and innovative methods. Parental involvement enhances the experience and the bond with their children.

From singing songs together in the car to hearing the familiar music of the High Holy Days, music enriches us, incites us to dance, and soothes us. It’s a way we learn, a way we love, and a way we connect.

Suzanne Chester and a group of Chavaya students.

As part of Congregation B’nai Israel’s $250,000 campaign to expand and beautify its historic cemetery, the congregation and wider community are encouraged to acquire cemetery gravesites. Before December 31, 2015, they will essentially receive a savings of $300 per plot because the price of each gravesite will increase by $300 on January 1, 2016.

According to Ralph Lowenstein, chair of Congregation B’nai Israel’s Cemetery Committee, a reservation for a cemetery plot for B’nai members has remained $1,400 for more than 10 years. The price is increasing to $1,700 because of the increase in maintenance costs at the cemetery over the past decade. The congregation, he said, had been planning to increase the price but delayed doing so until January, hoping that they would give members an incentive to buy at the current price before the expansion campaign ends at the close of this year.

Non-member plot prices range from $2,800 this year to $3,400 in 2016. Members and non-members have two years to complete payments for their selections.

The congregation will hold two open houses at the cemetery located on the corner of Williston Road and SE 1st Avenue from 1 pm to 3 pm on Sunday, November 8, and on Sunday, December 13, from 1 pm to 3 pm.

For more information, please contact Dr. Lowenstein at 352.372.5699.

**Historic Jewish Cemetery Plots Available**

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Friendship Circle: You Are Never Too Old to Feel Young

By Suzy Miller, Dorothy Melker, and Jill Hirsh

Friendship Circle welcomes active seniors who want the opportunity to get out and have a great time with wonderful friends. Can you believe our friends range in age from about 65 to 101? We meet Wednesdays at the B’nai Israel Social Hall from 10:30am to 1pm. All are welcome and encouraged to join us.

Friendship Circle as we know it today has evolved with the times. Started many years ago by Louis and Tina Cohen, and then Harriett Pawliger, Friendship Circle was an opportunity for the elderly and homebound to socialize, learn, and make new friends. Young at Heart, another group for active seniors met monthly with programs, social opportunities, and potluck lunches. Eventually, the two groups became one. Shirley Dresdner and Bernie Kaplan became the coordinators while they participated in what we know today as Friendship Circle. Many others gave of their time and expertise to make sure the seniors in our community had these opportunities.

We are fortunate to have learned from the best and have moved into the 21st century! Our monthly exercise is now Senior Zumba led by L’Tanya, who is well-known in the community for her expertise in senior exercise.

Keeping young with the little ones!

Friendship Circle Co-coordinator, Dorothy Melker (center) dances with the B’nai Israel Community Day School children who joined the Friendship Circle to celebrate Sukkot at a holiday brunch co-sponsored by JCNCF on September 30.

Thanks to all who helped make this wonderful annual event possible:
Congregation B’nai Israel
The Klezmer Katz
Jill Hirsh, Dorothy Melker & Suzy Miller
Linda Bobroff, Dawn Burgess-Krop,
Sharon Hirshik, & Heath Lynn Silberfeld

We also offer our Friends Through the Ages programs once a month. The children of the B’nai Israel Community Day School join us, and Rabbi Kaiman comes by to share stories and holiday thoughts.

Weekly programs are inspiring and thought provoking. Some examples include presentations by staff and volunteers of the Harn Museum of Art and the Florida Museum of Natural History; Lisa and John Johnson’s music program, concerts by the Klezmer Katz and the Ukulele Club of Gainesville, and music talks by Becky Micha and Howard Rothman; speakers such as Barbara Oberlander sharing about our country’s First Ladies, Ralph Lowenstein updating us on Israel, and the League of Women Voters helping us make informed voting decisions.

Discussions about current events are always lively. And we are involved in Mitzvah projects with the JCNCF and B’nai Israel. Friendship Circle co-sponsors Jewish holiday programs, such as the recent Seniors in the Sukkah, which was enjoyed by all. As usual, the brunch was delicious!

We are welcoming, fun, upbeat, and—most of all—here for you. We believe you are never too old to feel young!

Tikkun Olam continued from page 1

Academy, affiliated with the Jewish Federations. The ever-moving ride led again to New York, where Andy completed his 30-year career at IBM Corporate Staff Headquarters in Somers and Sharon became director of the nursery school at Temple Israel Center in White Plains.

The Hirshiks retired to Gainesville about 10 years ago. JCNCF and Temple Shir Shalom (TSS) have been the fortunate recipients of their generosity, time, and wisdom. Sharon joined the JCNCF board, served as president, chairs the grants committee, and serves on the by-laws and nominating committees. She helps out any way she can and she can often be found in the kitchen helping with any event.

Andy served as president at Temple Shir Shalom for two terms, serves on the TSS finance and budget committee, and was the co-host at TSS’s Anniversary Gala. Andy has a weekly commitment to Take Stock in Children, and he enjoys meeting with his student and tutoring him if needed. Andy even has a computer-related patent! When he isn’t indoors, he can be found picking up the litter on local roads or skillfully directing traffic in the TSS parking lot. Both Andy and Sharon have worked on major donor events and campaigns for JCNCF and are in charge of TSS’s High Holidays food drive every year.

Whenever a need arises, they are often the first to volunteer. They share their time and talents because they value a strong and healthy community. Andy feels that he has been very lucky in life, having had a career where his skills and talents were in high demand and having a great family, and now he has more time to give back to the community.

Judaism is very important to Sharon, so she wants to do whatever she can to nurture a strong Jewish community. She feels strongly about offering events and education that emphasize the wonders of Judaism and hopes that the community feels the same connection. Our Gainesville Jewish community is warm and friendly, says Sharon, and although it may be small in number, it doesn’t feel small at all.
The Isser and Rae Price Judaica Library and its UF partners—the Center for European Studies, Alexander Grass Chair of Jewish History, and the Latin American and Caribbean Collection—are organizing a series of events around the topic of Jewish food during the 2015–2016 academic year. The events include lectures about Ashkenazi and Sephardi food ways and cultures, Yiddish gastronomic terms, and more.

Eve Jochnowitz, translator of The Vilna Vegetarian Cookbook, will open the series on November 9, 2015, at 5:30 pm in the Judaica Suite (Smathers Library). Talks by Katalin Rac, Library Coordinator for Jewish Heritage; Misha Klein, author of Kosher Feijoada and Other Paradoxes of Jewish Life in São Paulo; and Ruth Behar, renowned anthropologist and expert on Jewish Cuba, will be featured during the academic year. All lectures are free and open to the public.

In addition, the Judaica Library invites community members to share their family cookbooks and recipes with the library curators. As part of its efforts to collect materials related to Jewish life in Florida and record Florida’s Jewish history, the Judaica Library wishes to organize a digital exhibition from the culinary records of North Central Florida Jewry.

Moreover, community members who are knowledgeable in the preparation of cholent, including hamin, adafina, and tibbeet—are invited to participate in a recipe contest. The organizers encourage contestants to submit their recipes by November 10, 2015. A panel of judges will select the best three recipes, and on December 1, 2015, as part of a public lecture on cholent by Katalin Rac, the audience will be invited to taste the three dishes and vote for the best.

We likewise hope to involve the youngest members of the Gainesville community by partnering with the Alachua County School Board and launching a cholent pot visual art-initiative for elementary and day school children. Art teachers will help us teach children about the significance of the cholent pot, when and how it is used in the Jewish household, and what Jewish and universal values are connected to the Sabbath lunch when cholent, cooked in the cholent pot, is consumed as the family spends the weekly holiday together. Children are encouraged to create their own cholent pots in mixed media, and their creations will be exhibited at the Gainesville Women’s Club from December 6, 2015.

To submit recipes and for further information, please contact Kokila Mendis at 352.294.7145 or Katalin Franciska Rac at 352.273.2638.
### Jewish Community Calendar for November 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TSS Sisterhood Paid-up Member Dinner, 5 pm</td>
<td>Torah Study with Rabbi Kaiman at CBI, 12 noon</td>
<td>TSS Sisterhood Board Meeting, 6:30pm</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jews of Kaifeng in Ocala, 11 am CBI DS Fiddler Festival, 5 to 7 pm Hadassah at Colvins 5 pm</td>
<td>Torah Study with Rabbi Kaiman at CBI, 12 noon</td>
<td>Hadassah Rosh Hodesh Group at CBI, 10 am (see below) Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph at TSS, 9:30 am TSS Board Meeting, 7 pm</td>
<td>Hadassah Book Club at CBI, Back to Basics Adult Ed with Rabbi Joseph at TSS, 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSS Sisterhood Board Meeting, 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Torah Study with Rabbi Kaiman at CBI, 12 noon</td>
<td>Torah Study with Rabbi Kaiman at CBI, 12 noon</td>
<td>Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph at TSS, 9:30 am JCNCF Board Meeting 7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>JCNCF Caregivers Support Group, 7 pm</td>
<td>CBI Lev Tov, 5:30-6:30 pm CBI Executive Committee Yitzhak Rabin Event at LCJC</td>
<td>CBI Israeli Culture and Art Festival 10-2 pm CBI New Moon Yoga 6pm Cholent Recipe Contest Deadline</td>
<td>JCNCF 7th Annual Mitzvah Day - breakfast and registration at Hillel, 9am Projects at Hillel, Chabad, Cong. B’nai Israel, Temple Shir Shalom and around Gainesville</td>
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#### North Central Florida Congregations & Organizations

**Gainesville**

**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, 32611
352.392.9247

**Congregation B’nai Israel (CBI-G)**
Rabbi David Kaiman
Jennifer Petrescu, Executive Director
Suzanne Chester, Chavaya (Religious Education) Director
Kristen Sanger, Administrative Coordinator
Stephanie Savage, Programs
www.bnaigainesville.com
3830 NW 16th Blvd, 32605
352.376.1508

**Congregation B’nai Israel Community Day School (DS)**
Debby Kinman-Ford, Director
www.bnaisraelcds.org
352.376.1508, ext 101

**Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah (HAD)**
Meredith Bacharach, President
mbbacharach@gmail.com
352.256.7631

**Hillel at the University of Florida (HLL)**
Rabbi Adam Grossman
www.ufhillel.org
2020 W University Avenue, 32603
352.372.2900

**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, 32603
352.336.5877

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The Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah sponsors a monthly Rosh Hodesh group that is open to the community. Dr. Barbara Oberlander’s talk for November will be *From Bella Abzug to Ruth Bader Ginsburg: The First Jewish Woman Supreme Court Justice.*
## Calendar for November 2015

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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBI, 10:30 am to 1 pm</td>
<td>Rosh Hodesh Kislev</td>
<td>UF Homecoming</td>
<td>UF Homecoming</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBT Support Group, 7 pm</td>
<td>CBI Board meeting, 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>CBT, 7 pm</td>
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<td>Rosh Hodesh Kislev</td>
<td>Rosh Hodesh Kislev</td>
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<td>CBI, 8 pm</td>
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<td>CBT, 7 pm</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>JCNCF office closed</td>
<td>JCNCF office closed</td>
<td>JCNCF office closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>JCNCF’s Caregivers Support Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. For location and more information contact Lori Waxenberg at <a href="mailto:loribwax@gmail.com">loribwax@gmail.com</a>.</td>
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To list your event in the Chronicle’s community calendar page, please send complete details to chronicle@jcncf.org.

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### The Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida (LIB)
Dr. Rebecca Jefferson, Director
[cms.uflib.ufl.edu/Judaica/Index.aspx](http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/Judaica/Index.aspx)
George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, 32611
352.273.2865

### Temple Shir Shalom (TSS)
Rabbi Michael Joseph
Debbie Boada, Religious School Principal
Ann Eisenstadt, Office Manager
[www.shirshalom.net](http://www.shirshalom.net)
3855 NW 8th Avenue, 32605
352.371.6399

### Ocala

### Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Center of Marion County & The Villages (CLJC)
Rabbi Yossi & Chanie Hecht, Directors
[www.jewishmarion.org](http://www.jewishmarion.org)
3500 SW 34th Avenue Circle, 34474
352.291.2218

### Congregation Beth Israel (CBI-O)
Rabbi Karen Allen
[www.bethisraelocala.org](http://www.bethisraelocala.org)
7171 SW Hwy 200, 34476
352.450.2056

### Temple Beth Shalom (TBS)
Rabbi Ze’ev Harari
[www.jewishocala.com](http://www.jewishocala.com)
1109 NE 8th Avenue, 34470
352.629.5837

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

### Temple Shalom of Central Florida (TSCF)
Sheldon Skurow, Spiritual Leader
[www.templeshalomcentralfl.org](http://www.templeshalomcentralfl.org)
13563 County Road 101, Oxford, FL 34484
352.748.1800
Jewish Council of North Central Florida, Inc.
PO Box 357936
Gainesville, FL 32635

Address Service Requested

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<td>Friendship Circle</td>
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<td>Israeli Culture &amp; Art Festival</td>
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<td>Jewish Food</td>
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<td>Jewish Community Contact List</td>
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Save These Dates

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<th>JCNCF PROGRAMS &amp; EVENTS</th>
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<td>Wednesday, November 4, 7 pm</td>
<td>Yitzhak Rabin 20th Anniversary</td>
<td>Chabad</td>
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<td>Sunday, November 8, 11 am</td>
<td>The Jews of Kaifeng</td>
<td>On Top of the World - Ocala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 8, 8 pm</td>
<td>Smart Conversations</td>
<td>Cong. B’nai Israel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 15, 10 am</td>
<td>Israeli Culture and Art Festival</td>
<td>Cong. B’nai Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 22, 9 am</td>
<td>Seventh Annual Mitzvah Day</td>
<td>Hillel &amp; other locations</td>
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