Sharon Hirshik Honored At National Philanthropy Day Luncheon In Ocala

By Dawn Burgess-Krop
President, JCNCF

Sharon Hirshik, past president of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida, was recognized for the contribution of her “time, talent and treasure” to the Jewish Council of North Central Florida at a recent meeting of the North Central Florida Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. The award was presented at the association’s National Philanthropy Day luncheon Nov. 13 at the Ocala Hilton.

The following is an edited version of Sharon's nomination letter:

Sharon is the kind of volunteer who is equally adept at overseeing a committee that selects and administers grants to organizations to cheerfully washing a sink full of dishes at an event for senior citizens. Cooperation and teamwork are second nature to Sharon. Her passion has been Jewish education and her career life was spent as a kindergarten teacher and, later, as an Administrator for a Jewish pre-school. Sharon was involved in Jewish education as a teacher and administrator in New York, followed by a three year stint teaching in London, England. She culminated her career in South (Continued on page 10)

Sixth Annual Community Mitzvah Day Recap

By Virginia Brissette
JCNCF Executive Director

At the Jewish Council office, we joke about how much we look forward to the day after Mitzvah Day, which is one of the largest and most labor intensive events that we sponsor.

This year, after organizing two Mitzvah Days in a little over 6 months, getting to the day after Mitzvah Day was not only an incredible relief, but it was also a moment of great pride in what a community can achieve collectively.

The decision to shift our annual community service event to the fall was motivated by a consistently busy spring calendar and the opportunity to partner with student groups at the University of Florida, who have historically scheduled their Mitzvah Days in the fall to coincide with International Mitzvah Day, which is always held in November.

After conversations with the Social Action contacts at Congregation B’nai Israel and Temple Shir Shalom and with Rabbi Goldman at Chabad and Rabbi Grossman at Hillel, we agreed on a date and a location for the (Continued on page 7)

A team of volunteers picked up trash along a segment NW 8th Avenue on Mitzvah Day. More pictures from our community day of service can be found on Page 6.
The year 2014 is fast coming to a close – and it has been a tumultuous one with a wave of difficulties and challenges which will continue into 2015.

One of the Jewish Council’s challenges in the new year will be to continue to help our community, world Jewry and Israel.

It will take more effort and support from all of you to just maintain the strides we have made in building our Jewish Community here in North Central Florida and to help our fellow Jews in even greater need.

If you have not done so already, please send in your pledge form (you can find one on page 4) or donation – in whatever amount you can. For those who can increase their gift to the annual campaign, please do so as some in our community may not be able to be as generous as in previous years.

The Star accompanying this article will be our “campaign thermometer” for the year. It will appear in every issue of The Chronicle so you can see our progress. Hopefully we will fill the star by the end of the campaign and reach our goal of $170,000. So far we have collected a little more than $30,000.

If you have not donated to the Jewish Council Annual Campaign before, this may be the time when your donation will truly be needed. All contributions are tax deductible. Some in our community may be able to make a donation from your IRA to the Jewish Council without the tax liability usually incurred with an IRA withdrawal.

We are also able to accept donations of stock which provides a benefit to the JCNCF while you avoid the capital gains. Please consult your financial advisor before making such a gift if you have any questions.

With your help, we can continue to help our community in 2015. Thank you.
B’nai Israel Community Day School Family Celebrates Fall In A Shtetl – With A Pig

The B’nai Israel Community Day School has had a busy beginning of the school year.

The students built a sukkah village, traveled to the rabbi’s house, celebrated Simchat Torah with the Friendship Circle and had a beekeeper visit for Rosh Hashana.

But the biggest event was the annual Fiddler’s Fall Festival on Nov. 2. We decorated the B’nai Israel social hall as a Russian shtetl complete with storefronts and a rooftop scene.

More than 160 people danced, played games, got their faces painted and ate dinner.

The event was attended by Day School families, members of the synagogue board, and the day school staff.

The silliest part of the evening was when all the staff did the chicken dance and the hokey pokey and then because they sold more than 150 raffle tickets, the Judaica teacher, Eytan Orren and the director, Debby Kinman-Ford both had to kiss a pig!

It was a memorable event for both the pig and the adults.

Hadassah Regional Vice President Will Help Install Local Officers On December 7

This month, the members of Hadassah gather together to learn, to socialize, to elect and install the officers who will serve in 2015. We encourage you to join us.

The installation will be led by Lin Pomerantz, Organizational Vice-President for our region. The installation will be Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to noon at the home of Debbie Sadove. Please RSVP to (352) 514-1829.

Interest Groups

Our next Hadassah Book Club meeting is on Wednesday, December 10, at 7 p.m. The book we are discussing is Occupation of Eliza Goode by Shelley Frazer Mickle.

Our January book selection is Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo. The date is Wednesday, January, at 7 p.m. Our meetings take place at the home of one of our members so please contact Marcy Brody for more information.

To learn more about the book club, or to become a member, please contact Marcy Brody Marcybrody@gmail.com or 610 529 3050.

Interested in playing with various media? Interested in a conversation “Is there Jewish art?” Interested in field trips to art collections? Contact Diane Brody of the Art Club.

Our Rosh Chodesh Study Group hosts a discussion on “U.S. and Israel: The Press War” led by our distinguished Emeritus Dean Ralph Lowenstein of the UF College of Journalism and Communication, no stranger to the press in the United States and Israel. Ralph is a combat veteran of the Israeli War of Independence and the Korean War, an award-winning journalist, author and teacher.

The discussion will take place at the B’nai Israel Social Hall on December 9 at 10 a.m. This study group is open to the entire Jewish community.

If you are interested in participating in the Garden Club, please contact Michelle Jensen or Leslie Roseman.

Hadassah’s Lunch Bunch will gather around the table in a private space at Northwest Grill on January...
The Rabbi’s Pen

By Rabbi Michael Joseph
Temple Shir Shalom

When I came to Gainesville with my family in the summer of 2004, I knew to be very careful about looking too far ahead.

We were coming from a very difficult four years in Norfolk, Virginia, which was “supposed to be” our big career move. In Gainesville, we never let ourselves talk or think about more than seven years ahead, which would take us through our son’s high school graduation.

We found that this made us just like almost everybody else around here, a university town where time horizons tend to be short.

Seven years came and went, then eight, then nine. Our children finished high school and went off to college. My wife and I liked it here, and we loved Temple Shir Shalom.

Our kids liked coming home to Florida on their vacations. So, about a year ago, when we were presented with the opportunity to make a longer term commitment to Gainesville and Temple Shir Shalom, we took it.

The story above would already, just by itself, be a happy one, and our situation would be one that called for gratitude. But the story leaves out so much!

About the gracious original welcome of this community and its enduring friendship.

About the sense of pride that members of Temple Shir Shalom feel in their congregation. About the eagerness to learn that characterizes our community. About the wonderful collegiality I have found here with our Jewish and other religious community leaders.

About the beaches and the springs and the farmer’s markets and the Spanish moss and the tiny little lizards. About the trees in Temple Shir Shalom’s backyard. About the Florida Gators, in any and every sport.

The celebration of our ten years at Temple Shir Shalom that so many of you helped create on November 2 was both deeply appreciated and a little bit misplaced—we, my family and I, should be the ones thanking you, as I am trying to do with this column.

We thank you, and we look forward to years of continued friendship and service.

Very best wishes for a Chanukah of appreciation and rededication.

Temple Beth Shalom is planning a trip to the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg on Feb. 22.

The tour bus leaves Temple Beth Shalom Parking Lot, 1109 NE 8th Avenue Ocala FL at 9 a.m. and returns at 5 p.m. Participants should bring a bag lunch as no food is available.

Group admission and transportation are included in the price: Adults $10, Students under 16, $7. Please call: Terri (352) 854-8362, Dorothy (352) 307-8878, or Marcia (352) 732-7244 for reservations.

Thank you to Jewish Council of North Central Florida for their financial assistance.

UF Students Luis Sadovnic (left) and Josh Perez stop for a nosh during the Lubavitch Chabad Student Center’s Sukkah at Turlington event on the UF Campus during Sukkot.
Community Chanukah Events

Congregation B’nai Israel
Tuesday, December 9
B’nai Israel Community Day School Chanukah program with Meridian Behavioral Healthcare’s MIST Program. The gifts are donated by Day School Students.

Sunday, December 14
Extreme Chanukah Karaoke 7 -10 p.m. in the B’nai Israel Social Hall
Join Us for an evening of fun karaoke as participants sing for tips! We’ll have a light nosh, a few drinks and a good time! Please RSVP to Jenifer at jenifer@bnaigainesville.com.

Tuesday, December 16
Chanukah Dinner and Party, 6 to 9 p.m. in the Social Hall.
Cost: $18/adult, $9/child under 17, $40/family of 4
We will light the candles, enjoy a dance and some latkes! All children will receive a goodie bag of Hanukkah treats! Bring your own menorah to light as we celebrate the first night together!

Wednesday, December 17
Friendship Circle Chanukah program, 10:30 a.m.; call (352) 373-9134 for more information.

Thursday, December 18
B’nai Israel Community Day School/PJ Library Chanukah Party, 5:45 - 7 p.m.
UF Lubavitch-Chabad
Unless otherwise indicated, all events take place at: Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student & Community Center, 2021 NW 5th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32603, (five blocks north of the Stadium). For more information and to sign up for any of the following Chabad events contact: Rabbi Berl or Chanie Goldman; Rabbi@JewishGator.com or Chanie@JewishGator.com

Sunday, December 14
Chanukah Factory at the Home Depot, 5150 NW 13th Street - Gainesville
Participants will receive a worker’s apron and then craft their own unique wooden Menorah/Dreidel, enjoy hot latkes and doughnuts, plus meet Judah Maccabee!
The workshop is free of charge; donations appreciated.
Co-Sponsored by: The Home Depot and Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student and Community Center

Monday, December 15
The Women’s Chodesh Club at 7:30 p.m. will discuss the Feminine Dimension of Chanukah
Discuss: Yehudit & Chanah; heroic Jewish women
Create: Decorative candles designed with a theme of your choice
Taste: Assorted Latkes with an array of toppings
Plus: Secrets to making perfect Sufganiot.
Cost: $10

Thursday, December 18
Lox & Latkes - Chanukah for Seniors, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Featuring: Bagel & Lox Brunch with hot Latkes, blintzes and more along with live entertainment and music.

Wednesday, December 17
Downtown Chanukah Family Festival, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the downtown Bo Diddley Community Plaza (E. University Ave. corner SE First St.)
Join in the lighting of a Giant Menorah!
December 17 (second night Chanukah) 5:30 – 7 p.m.
Featuring: Live Acrobatic & Performing Show, Hot Latkes, Sufganiyot, Chanukah gift shop, Dreidels for everyone and much more.
Music and Dancing with the Klezmer Katz band!
Special dignitaries will light the Menorah. Greeting from; the Mayor and City and County Commissioners.
Free of Charge
Special Toys for Joy Toy Drive
The Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student and Community Center and its UF student group are running a Fall Kids Toy Drive; Toys for Joy! for hospitalized children, a meaningful way to celebrate Chanukah. This project shares the message of joy, light and warmth of Chanukah beyond the festivities, through donating toys to children in local hospitals. The Toys for Joy Project is possible with the generous participation, donations and support of the Alachua County community. Everyone is encouraged to help sponsor new toys or/

(Continued on page 10)
Kid Connection - “The Casserole Kids”

By Dawn Burgess-Krop
President, JCNCF

Want to have a lot of fun on Mitzvah Day? Try cranking out 31 casseroles with a group of teenagers. Seriously. Guided by organizational wizard Erin King, six teens turned B’nai Israel kitchen into a food factory and created casseroles to be distributed to area homeless programs.

Asked why they volunteered for Mitzvah Day, here are their responses:

“It was fun to spend time together while helping other people,” Olivia Rothstein said.

“I volunteered because 1) I like cooking, and 2) I like feeding the homeless,” said Elias Boada.

And Ruth King, who dubbed their group the Casserole Kids, said, “I love working in the B’nai kitchen, plus it was fun spending time with the other kids.”

Rebecca Ford said, “I like to volunteer and help the community.”

The Casserole Kids were ably assisted by Melinda Boudah-Lavoie, Erin King, Heath Silberfeld, and Dawn Burgess-Krop. The Stone Soup Casserole Brigade is very grateful to the members of B’nai Israel Sisterhood, who generously donated the ingredients.

Mitzvah Day Photos

Mitzvah Day in pictures (clockwise from top left): Children at the Chabad Center draw and color cards and letters for Lone Soldiers in Israel; Volunteers sort some of the generous clothing donations; a large team packages dog food for the Saint Frances House Pet Care Clinic; and an energetic team that made lunch for residents at the VA Fisher House pose with one of the residents. Thanks to volunteers of all ages - adults, children and teens - who made this day possible!
Mitzvah Day Recap

(Continued from page 1)

breakfast. That felt like a small victory.

Sponsoring a Mitzvah Day takes months of planning and organizing. Service projects are coordinated with local area charities and supplies are donated by businesses and individuals or purchased.

There is a breakfast for potentially hundreds of people to wrangle. And getting the general Jewish community in a room together with student groups from the University of Florida at 9 a.m. on a Sunday morning is no small feat. That we had more than 200 people attend the kick off breakfast at Chabad was, on its own, a reason to celebrate!

The moment of real elation happened around 2 p.m. on Mitzvah Day as JCNCF Community Engagement Associate Damien Boada and I surveyed the fruits of our community’s labor – the endless bags of clothing sorted for eight different charities; the laundry baskets filled with household goods for veterans and their families; the trail mix bags, placemats, cards, blankets and beaded bracelets made by the hands of small children.

THAT was the very moment we had worked so hard for. Knowing that more than 300 people (probably more) had planned, organized and contributed their time, talent and treasure to make a difference in our community was a very satisfying and proud moment.

Yes, we were still glad Mitzvah Day was over for another year, but we also knew that we had accomplished something pretty special on November 9. We brought the Jewish community of North Central Florida together to do what Jews do best - to believe that there is good in the world and to be the good in the world.

Many thanks to …
JCNCF Officers and Board
Mitch Chupak of the Jaffa Institute

Partner Organizations:
Children Beyond Our Borders
Congregation B’nai Israel - Rabbi David Kaiman, Jennifer Petrescu, Men’s Club, Sisterhood, USY Group
Hillel - Rabbi Adam Grossman, Alexa Jacobson
Jewish Law Student Association
Jewish Student Union
Tabacinic Lubavitch – Chabad Jewish Student & Community Center - Rabbi Berl & Chanie Goldman, Rabbi Aharon & Pessie Notik and the Lubavitch-Chabad Student Group

Temple Shir Shalom - Rabbi Michael Joseph, Sisterhood and the Social Action Committee
UF Student Government

Team Leaders
Sammy Boada – Household Goods Baskets for Veterans
Sloane Bochman – Care Packages for IDF Lone Soldiers
Dawn Burgess-Krop – Stone Soup Casserole Brigade
Mike Greenberg – Alachua County Animal Services
Eloise Harman – Making Lunches for the Homeless
Sharon Hirshik – Clothing Sorting
Random Kraft – Bread and Pastry Packaging
Linda Lewis – Beading for Beit Ruth
Glenn Marks and Tyler Tellman – Clean Up/Fix Up at YMCA

Megan Nardo – Jewish Senior Outreach at the Village
Nancy Parks – Meal for Veteran’s Families at Fisher House
David Pawliger – Adopt a Street Clean Up
Sara Plotkin – Baking Cookies at Ronald McDonald House
Rachel Silver – Bundles of Blankets for the Children’s Home Society
Amanda Tankel – Placemats and Snack Bags for Meals on Wheels
Debra Trione – St. Francis House Pet Clinic Bags


Mitzvah Day Recap

Thousands of pounds of clothing sorted for BOLD, Displaced Homemakers, GRACE Marketplace, Helping Hands Clinic, Pace, Reichert House, SWAG, and Tacachale
500 pounds of cat and dog food for the St. Francis House Pet Care Clinic
125 snack bags and 20 decorated place mats for Meal on Wheels
100 hand-made cards and 20 care packages for Lone Soldiers serving in the Israel Defense Forces
50 lunches and hundreds of toiletry bags for the homeless
35 people served lunch at the Fisher House
31 casseroles for St. Francis House and the Helping Hands Clinic
26 cats and dogs exercised and played with
13 bracelets for Beit Ruth
10 household baskets for veterans
6 dozen brownies and cookies for Ronald McDonald House
4 knotted fleece blankets for the Children’s Home Society
1 mile of 8th Avenue cleaned

Visit UF Chabad Online At www.JewishGator.com
Ocala Temple Hosts Talk On The History Of The Jewish Reconstructionist Movement

Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala invites the community to a “Lunch and Learn” on Sunday January 11, 2015 at 11 a.m. at the Arbor Conference Center at On Top of the World Retirement Communities in Ocala. The program will feature Rabbi Linda Holtzman who will speak about the history of the Reconstructionist movement, its contributions to Judaism and the implications for the future. Her presentation will be from the vantage point of a rabbi who has spent most of her rabbinic life working in the Reconstructionist movement.

Rabbi Holtzman, a Reconstructionist Rabbinical college graduate in 1979, is presently the rabbi of a newly founded Tik’kon Olom Chavurah and is on the regular faculty of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. She has held pulpits in the Philadelphia area at Beth Israel where she was the first woman to serve a Conservative congregation, and at Beth Ahavah. She is the founder and organizer of the Reconstructionist Chevra Kadisha of Philadelphia, on the board of Philadelphia’s New Sanctuary Movement and Heeding God’s Call and on the national board of Jewish Voice for Peace.

A light lunch will be served at a cost of $5 per ticket. For further information, please contact Judi at 352.237.8277.

This program is made possible by a grant from the Jewish Council of North Central Florida.

Cardiovascular Health Information Session Set For B’nai Israel On Dec. 8

Congregation B’nai Israel continues its health care series with the next session focusing on cardiovascular health from a natural Chinese medicine perspective. The talk will be Dec. 8 at 11:30 a.m. in the B’nai Israel Social Hall.

With topics on the causes and cures of allergies, drug free pain management and women’s health, these sessions are a one hour discussion, including an opportunity to ask questions, with Dr. Han Lin Yang of Natural Rhythm Acupuncture.

As a traditional Chinese medicine doctor and acupuncturist, Dr. Han utilizes a holistic healing approach. He combines acupuncture and herbal medicine to treat medical conditions, prevent disease and promote overall well-being.

Please Note: This session is for informational purposes only and should not be considered personal medical advice. Contact your physician with any medical concerns.
Prayers Answered: Our Responsibility For Each Other

By Rabbi Berl Goldman
Lubavitch-Chabad
Jewish Student & Community Center
at the University of Florida

Prayer is a vital part of a person’s relationship with G-d. There are various portions of our daily prayers that reinforce and strengthen this connection. We begin our prayers praising and thanking G-d, which serves as a prelude to our requests from G-d, which we utter as part of the text in the prayer book and which we also carry in our hearts, as personal desires and needs. As we know, G-d reads our thoughts and the deepest wishes in our hearts, and when we dedicate time, whether formal or informal to Him, we can be assured that G-d will respond positively.

There is one blessing that contains a request, which we only say half of the year and that is the appeal for rain. Rain as we know is the primary source for most physical blessings; it is necessary to eat and thrive and without it humanity cannot survive. In the Holy Land of Israel, the rain season is in the winter, and thus that is the cycle that our prayers follow.

Since the Land has mountainous terrain it needs rain to begin right after the holiday of Sukkot. However, the blessing for rain is postponed for 15 days to allow time for the those pilgrims who had traveled to the Temple in Jerusalem for Sukkot, to reach their homes on the Euphrates River, where the farthest Jewish settlements existed, and not be hampered on the way by rain. When the entire body of the Jewish people postponed their personal prayers for rain, they were showing great care and concern for their few brethren who lived in the most remote areas and this was a reflection of the greatest trait humans can have: compassion and unity.

Consider this thought. It would seem that prayer for rain is of the most vital importance. All sustenance of humanity is dependent on it and should override every other concern. Alternatively, travelers who would get rained on would not be devastated; they would at most get wet and have an uncomfortable trip.

Yet, unity and concern for each other dictates, that if even one person who is traveling to the furthest part of the country will be in discomfort, the rest of the nation must put their essential needs on hold for the sake of the one straggler. When one is truly imbued with selfless love of a fellow, he/she will not feel the discomfort of the lack of rain and it would in fact cause him pain knowing that another might be in some position of suffering.

This idea of concern for a fellow at one’s personal expense brings to mind the discussion swirling about bringing Ebola patients to be treated in this country. John Fox, CEO of Emory Healthcare put it very well, “If we can help people—if it’s effective and if we can do it safely—we have a moral obligation to do it.” And in the words of Dr. Tom Frieden, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: “I hope that our understandable fear of the unfamiliar does not trump our compassion when ill Americans return to the U.S. for care.” As Americans, we are lucky to live in a country with the most advanced health care in the world and it is incumbent upon us to share the medical expertise we have with those less fortunate, especially when the risk to the population is minimal.

Jewish law which postpones the prayers of rain still exists today, when there is not a Temple and when people are not traveling on donkeys for days. The reason is to emphasize the law and its lesson, which applies universally today just as it did then. While we are each involved and busy with our own demanding lives, it is incumbent upon each one of us to make care, compassion and unity an active part of our lives. Whether supporting Ebola patients being treated here or just taking a few minutes out of our day to call/visit or say hello to someone who would appreciate the gesture, concern for another is a fundamental Jewish tenet or Mitzvah.

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Support Our Advertisers

**Chanukah**

(Continued from page 5)

and donations towards the purchase of new toys. Participants who donate towards this project can fill out their own name and include a positive message to the children. Toys and donations earmarked for this project can be dropped off or mailed to the center: 2021 NW 5th Ave. Gainesville, FL 32603. Chanukah is all about light, warmth and hope and this year we hope that all children can experience the joys of this season and the faith in miracles.

**Temple Shir Shalom**  
**Saturday, December 20**

The Temple Shir Shalom Sisterhood hosts the annual family Temple Chanukah party. The fun will begin with a dairy pot luck dinner, including latkes, at 6 p.m. at Temple Shir Shalom and will continue with music by the Klezmer Katz. There will be games and projects for the children. Please RSVP to Vera Rabino at vrabino@cox.net or 333-0077. Hope to see you there!

**Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala**  
**Saturday, December 13**

Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala would hold a Shabbat morning service at 10 a.m. at the First Congregational United Church of Christ on 7171 State Highway 200 in Ocala. The service will be led by Rabbi Karen Allen and will include traditional prayers and Torah reading by Rabbi Allen.

After the service, all are invited to the congregational Chanukah party, which will be held at the Arbor Conference Center room E at On Top of the World Retirement Communities. The party will begin at 12:30pm and will feature a catered lunch with entrée, latkes, drinks and desserts. Rabbi Karen Allen, will lead the group in singing seasonal winter songs at the conclusion of the meal. The cost for the party is $12.00 and reservations are required. Please call Estelle at (352) 861-2542 for further information and reservations.

**Chabad Lubavitch of Marion County**  
**Sunday, December 21**

Public Menorah and Grand Chanukah Celebration featuring:

- Live Children’s Choir
- Menorah Lighting
- Walten’s Acrobatic and Performing Dog Show
- Latkes, Donuts and more!

At the Ocala City Square - Downtown Ocala, 5 to 6:30 p.m. For more info email info@jewishmarion.org visit www.jewishmarion.org or call 352-291-2218.

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(Continued from page 1)

Florida before moving to Gainesville.

Since moving to Gainesville, Sharon has been a faithful volunteer at Temple Shir Shalom. Her talents in administration and working with people were in evidence as she served on the board of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida, and became Vice President, then President.

She relates that her family has been involved with Jewish Federations since she was a child, so serving on the Jewish Council board was honoring her family’s commitment to service. With a smile, we note that her patience and steadfastness as a teacher well prepared her to manage a board constituted of busy, opinionated professionals.

Sharon’s passion and caring shine through as she describes her love for her new home in Gainesville. She expresses that Gainesville has every cultural advantage of a large city while maintaining the warmth and caring of a small town. By extension, she feels the JCNCF affirms her impression of her adopted community’s character - a strong commitment to the Jewish experience, stating, “JCNCF tries to help people gain a sense of Jewish identity with programs that cement the Jewish community.”

Sharon expresses particular fondness for programs that serve our children and seniors. The commitment of the Jewish Federation to serve Jews in need throughout the world has always had a special resonance for Sharon, as most recently exemplified by the current effort to ensure that elderly Jews caught in the Ukrainian war have adequate food and heating.

Sharon is married to Andy Hirshik, who also volunteers in many capacities throughout our community. The Hirshiks have two sons, Eric and Russ. Sharon and Andy have maintained friendships from the various places they have lived and enjoy connecting with relatives and friends in their travels.

Sharon’s leadership has impacted many lives in our community, and all who know her are touched by her kindness, compassion, and caring. Those who work with her closely know that Sharon doesn’t just “talk the talk,” she “walks the walk.”

Her willingness to volunteer for any task, no matter how unglamorous, is legend. Her intelligence, organizational skills, and her warmth and caring are all reasons JCNCF was proud to nominate Sharon Hirshik as our Philanthropist of the Year. Her life of purpose is an example for all of us and we are very proud to call her our own.

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**Hirshik**

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Jewish Community Calendar — December 2014

Tuesday, December 2
Temple Shir Shalom Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph, 9:30 a.m.; also on Dec. 9 and 16.
Temple Shir Shalom Sisterhood Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 3
B'nai Israel Community Day School School Pictures
Friendship Circle trip to Harn Museum for Art for Life, 10:30 a.m.; call (352) 373-9134 for more information.
JCNCF Caregiver Support Group, 7 p.m.; For location and more information call Linda Lewis at (352) 317-4978

Thursday, December 4
Temple Shir Shalom Adult Education Series, 7 p.m.; also on Dec. 11

Tuesday, December 9
Temple Shir Shalom Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 10
Friendship Circle, 10:30 a.m. at Congregation B'nai Israel with guest speaker Howard Rothman, the Music Maven.
B'nai Israel Community Day School Painting with a Jewish twist, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 11
Congregation B’nai Israel Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m

Tuesday, December 16
Erev Chanukah - Light First Candle Tonight
Jewish Council of North Central Florida Board Meeting, 7 p.m. at Temple Shir Shalom

Friday, December 19
Chanukah
B’nai Israel Community Day School Family Service and Shabbat Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, December 22
Chanukah
Alachua County Public Schools Closed (Winter Break) through Jan. 2
B’nai Israel Community Day School Winter Camp for 2,3 and 4 year olds through Jan. 2

Wednesday, December 24
Chanukah
B’nai Israel Community Day School Closes at 1 p.m.

Thursday, December 25
B’nai Israel Community Day School Closed

Saturday, December 27

Wednesday, December 31
New Years Eve

Thursday, January 1
New Years Day

B’nai Israel Community Day School Closed

Prayer’s Answered

(Continued from page 9)

and should be a universal goal for all of humanity.

We are now in the month of December, coinciding with Chanukah, the great Holiday and festival of lights, which brings warmth, light and joy to all. On behalf of my wife Chanie, our children, Mendel, Mushka, Rochel, Levi, Shmuely, Meir, Shternie and Boruch we share our very best wishes for a Happy Chanukah to everyone.

Note: The articles written or published by the Lubavitch-Chabad Center are primarily based on Chassidic insights, discourses, letters and talks by the Lubavitch Rebbe of righteous memory. Periodically we present articles and thoughts from Chabad.org and its contributing writers. We thank Chabad.org and its staff for allowing us to publish and share its inspiring articles.

Remember Hadassah
When You Want
To Remember Others

To buy or send cards or certificates for any occasion, call Ann Heft: 376-8145.

Cards and Certificates can be paid for using funds in Hadassah on Account. Call or email for information.

For any questions or comments contact us at: gainesville@hadassah.org
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