Ten Years of Beit Ruth

By Virginia Brissette Hirshik
JCNCF Executive Director

In 2006, Susan Ashner had a dream for Israel. She envisioned a place where abused and neglected girls and young women, who had nowhere else to go, could find safety, shelter and stability. Fast forward to 2016 and Susan Ashner’s dream of a haven for Israel’s most vulnerable girls and young women has become, not only a reality, but a wonderful success story - the Beit Ruth Educational and Therapeutic Village.

Beit Ruth was established to fill a distinct gap in the State of Israel’s treatment of sexually, physically, and/or emotionally abused girls. Over 30,000 young girls in Israel are currently deemed to be “at-risk” by the Ministry of Welfare. Tragically, Israel’s problem of “teenage girls on the streets” grabs few headlines and is viewed as low-priority for government funding. The result is exhausted state-run facilities and no financial means to expand services for additional girls, and little or no ability to enact creative therapeutic and educational programs specifically targeted to individual needs.

Without effective early intervention, at-risk girls can become trapped in a cycle of poverty and abuse well into their adult lives, and are likely to perpetuate the cycle with their own children. According to Ashner, “The truth is every troubled teenage girl denied the opportunity to leave the streets breeds another generation of battered and abused children. It’s our mission to break the cycle of abuse.”

 Beet Ruth continues on page 8

Tikkun Olam with Stacey Steinberg

By Dawn Burgess-Krop
JCNCF President

In our modern world, we use our cameras to photograph everything from the practical to the inane. Stacey Steinberg uses her camera lens to capture moments with gravely ill children and their families. In the intimacy of coping with ceaseless medical procedures comiled with profound hope and fear, Stacey is sharing these moments with families and capturing the ebullience that only children can offer, even in the most trying of times.

Stacey has volunteered her photography talents for the Shared Hope Project, which she created in 2012, and connected with Shands to photograph children battling cancer, birth defects, and debilitating illness. In Stacey’s words, "It was my honor to be welcomed into these family’s lives and to give them these pictures."

Stacey’s photography has been featured on the popular website The Huffington Post where she also authors columns. The Harn Museum is currently in the process of planning an exhibit on Health, Healing, and Dying, and has requested to display Stacey’s images of children and their families and to participate in the public discussion of this worthy topic.

Stacey is a proud gator!

Tikkun Olam continues on page 10
By Virginia Brissette Hirshik
JCNCF Executive Director

The Jewish Council has received a grant from The Israel Action Network (IAN), a strategic initiative of The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), in partnership with the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA). The IAN and the grant were created to counter the assault on Israel’s legitimacy and positively change the discourse on Israel.

One such program is known as the Community Impact Partnership (CIP), which was launched in 2013 with the goal of increasing the capacity of small and mid-sized Jewish communities to counter delegitimization through in-depth training and strategic planning over a three to six month period.

Through a CIP grant, the Jewish Council is sponsoring a series of dinners and other activities in partnership with leaders from the African-American community of Gainesville. The first event in this series was a dinner and discussion in November hosted by Dr. Harry Krop and Dawn Burgess-Krop. The group focused on the Jewish and African American histories of Gainesville. The next gathering will be a special Shabbat service at Temple Shir Shalom on Friday, January 15, which is Martin Luther King Day weekend. All are welcome.
East and West 3 is a Musical Experience Not To Be Missed
Wednesday, January 27 at 7 pm

By Jack Kugelmass, Director
Center for Jewish Studies at UF

If the third time is the charm, audiences who come out for the Center for Jewish Studies sponsored cantorial concert, East and West 3, are in for a treat indeed. This year’s concert event will feature the same virtuoso musicians as in the past - Yair Dalal and Frank London - are each the most outstanding exemplars of Iraqi Jewish and klezmer music respectively, while Dror Sinai and Shai Bachar round out the ensemble through wonderfully animated percussion, vocals and keyboard.

Shar Bachar, piano and Frank London, trumpet.

Yanky Lemmer is, for good reason, a favorite among the cantorial aficionados within this community and he is living proof of how robust the tradition of Ashkenazi great hazzanut is both in this country and elsewhere. Since many people in Gainesville have heard him perform and can attest to how mesmerizing his singing is, I don’t need to say anything more about him. For anyone unfamiliar, a quick search on YouTube will convince the skeptic that hearing this man sing is an unforgettable experience.

There is one major change to the lineup that promises to radically transform this concert. As Jewish Studies events, the concerts are designed to do more than just entertain. They are intended to provide the community with a learning opportunity regarding the depth and range of Jewish liturgical music, and the beauty of Jewish sacred music from various traditions.

This year, the concert shifts from the music of Iraq to that of Jewish Morocco and Spain-Andalus. To help us make that transition, Yanky Lemmer will be joined by Israeli cantor Lior Elmaliah. Like Yanky, Lior is a star cantor who sings with the Andalus Orchestra of Israel and has performed around the world. He can be seen in concert on YouTube and to hear how talented he is, I recommend a listen to his version of Albinoni’s Adagio which he does in Moroccan Arabic (I assume Moroccan Jewish Arabic). It’s very, very beautiful!

One of the great thrills in creating this musical ensemble is that it is something entirely new. I don’t believe that Lior and Yanky have ever performed together before this event and they are each powerhouse of their respective traditions. What will the outcome be? I rely upon the musicians who’ve worked together a number of times to find the linkages and I have a great deal of faith that when talent meets talent something magical happens. That magic is music.

The concert, hosted by Congregation B’nai Israel, will take place at 7 pm on Wednesday, January 27. Tickets are $18 and students may attend for free. For more information, please go to web.jst.ufl.edu/events.shtml.

East and West 3 is made possible by a generous grant from the Jewish Council, the various endowments of the Center for Jewish Studies and support from individuals and families that are part of the Gainesville Jewish community.

From the first East and West concert in 2014, from left to right, Cantor Yanky Lemmer, Rabbi Hagai Batzri, Yair Dalal, and Dror Sinai

At center is Lior Elmaliah who is flanked by Eli Tzurya on the left and Charlie Peretz on the right.

Photo from the “Seek Peace and Pursue It Conference,” 2015
The Brunch to Benefit Beit Ruth: Sunday, January 31

By Virginia Brissette Hirshik  
JCNCF Executive Director

This month’s feature story on Beit Ruth highlights one of the many important organizations that are supported by the Jewish Council’s Annual Campaign. When we use the tagline, JCNCF Helps Heal the World Locally and Globally, Beit Ruth, and its parent organization, the Jaffa Institute, are perfect examples of the meaningful programs made possible by your generous support. Through their grassroots efforts to address poverty in Israel, the Jaffa Institute and Beit Ruth create positive change for people in the communities they serve.

The women of North Central Florida’s Jewish community are proud to have been part of “Team Beit Ruth” from the beginning and have donated tens of thousands of dollars through the Jewish Council’s annual Brunch to Benefit Beit Ruth. Through our close, personal relationship with Mitch Chupak, Director of Development for the Jaffa Institute, we have been able to witness the miraculous results of our investment. Many community members, who have taken the time to visit the Beit Ruth program for girls or the Beit Shemesh home for boys during their visits to Israel, have seen first hand the kind of amazing work that these organizations do. We are honored to be their partner in healing the world.

This year’s Brunch to Benefit Beit Ruth is being graciously hosted and sponsored by Kim Sandler Cohen and Dr. Ronald Cohen.

Additionally, donations to the brunch will be matched (up to $5,000) by Dawn Burgess-Krop and Dr. Harry Krop.

We hope that their incredible gifts will inspire you to give generously, as all funds raised from this event will go directly to Beit Ruth.

The Jewish Council is grateful to both families for their dedication to tzedekah and healing the world - Todah Raba!

Your Gift to JCNCF’s Annual Campaign Can Make a Difference!

The Jewish Council of North Central Florida supports Jewish life locally and globally and operates entirely on the generous contributions of community members. We are grateful for your donation and thank you for supporting the Annual Campaign and our many community events and programs.

I am/We are pleased to pledge/donate the following amount to support Jewish life in North Central Florida while also maintaining support for international Jewish needs. To make your donation securely online with a credit card, go to www.jcncf.org. Please call or email the JCNCF office for instructions on how to donate stock or to make your gift directly to The Jewish Federations of North America. Contact us at 352.371.3846 or at office@jcncf.org.

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Signature __________________________________ Pledged $____________________ Enclosed $____________

The Brunch to Benefit Beit Ruth: Sunday, January 31

Women of the North Central Florida Jewish Community Are Invited to a Brunch to Benefit Beit Ruth: A Residential Village for At-Risk Girls and Young Women in Israel

Sunday, January 31 ~ 10:30 am
At the Home of Kim Sandler Cohen
Oakmont ~ Holle Plantation
4222 SW 94th Drive ~ Gainesville, FL 32608

Kindly RSVP by Friday, January 22
352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org

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

Sponsored by Kim Sandler Cohen and the Jewish Council
By Ralph Lowenstein

**From Goldfish to Caviar.** Yigal Ben Zvi, in northern Galilee’s Kibbutz Dan, was raising goldfish 20 years ago when he decided he could do something more productive for the kibbutz. He upgraded to sturgeon. Today, Kibbutz Dan has 60,000 sturgeon in its fish tanks and produces about 6,000 pounds of caviar each year. A two-pound jar costs $4,000 and is stocked by the finest restaurants throughout the world. Incidentally, caviar is not kosher.

**Water, Water Everywhere.** In the 1930s, British agricultural experts declared that Palestine had water resources that could support a population of no more than 2 million people. As we enter the year 2016, Israel, with a population of 8 million—and growing—has the most efficient water production and water conservation processes in the world, from drip irrigation, to sewerage recycling, to massive desalination plants. It not only fulfills all of its own needs; it also exports surplus water to Jordan and Gaza.

**Another BDS Thrust.** The National Women’s Studies Association, based in the United States, is the latest academic group to back the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. Only 35% of total membership voted, but 88% of those voting did so in favor of BDS. In similar votes this past year, American anthropologists voted overwhelmingly to boycott Israeli universities and American historians voted 3–1 against doing so.

**Largest Solar Plant Operating.** Last month, Israel’s largest solar plant began operating. Located near Kibbutz Ohad in the northeastern Negev, the field includes 180,000 solar collectors that will generate enough electricity to power 18,000 households.

**Airliner Protection System.** Elbit Systems, an Israeli corporation, has produced the SkyShield system for countering shoulder-launched missiles. It has already been installed on Israeli airliners. It recently passed a test by NATO on an Airbus C295.

**Israeli Spiderzillas.** The nation of Colombia has a big problem with spider mites that gnaw away on leaves of plants and trees. Not to worry: Israeli-developed carnivorous spiders to the rescue. BioBee, an Israeli biotech company, will send 600 million spiders to Colombia to annihilate spider mites that threaten Colombia’s largest cash crop, coffee. The Israeli spiders, bred in BioBee’s Jordan Valley laboratories, are twice the size of the mites they will be attacking, and they are uninterested in the leaves of coffee trees - they just like mites.

**Thanksgiving for Lone Soldiers.** Some 200 Israeli soldiers from North America, without family in Israel, attended a special Thanksgiving dinner at a deli in Ra’anana, a suburb of Tel Aviv. The holiday dinner was hosted by a number of organizations, including Keren Kayemeth Le’Israel and the Jewish National Fund.

**That’s Very, Very Old.** Arabs contend that the Al-Aqsa Mosque, central to the current unrest and stabbings in Israel, is 3,000 years old. That would place it on the Temple Mount since 985 BCE. That’s 1,051 years before the Romans destroyed every edifice on the Temple Mount and 1,555 years before the birth of Muhammad, founder of the Muslim religion. Go figure.
International Mitzvah Day
It Takes A Village to Heal the World

By Tamara Segal
JCNCF Community Engagement & Media Associate

Nearly two hundred people came out for the Jewish Council’s Seventh Annual Mitzvah Day on Sunday, November 22. Volunteers from the Jewish community donated supplies and worked at projects to benefit over two dozen local charities. Service projects were offered at various locations throughout Gainesville from baking at Ronald McDonald House to trash removal on NW 8th Avenue. The Jewish Council organized and sponsored this community wide event in cooperation with Congregation B’nai Israel, Gainesville Hadassah, the Tabacinic Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish Student and Community Center, Temple Shir Shalom, and UF Hillel.

Mitzvah Day team leaders from left to right: Maddy Segal, Jenneva Clauss, Annmarie Fearing, and Emma Segal

JCNCF is grateful to all of the organizations who hosted and sponsored projects on Mitzvah Day.

Many, many thanks to all who donated the supplies for the service projects, tons of food, clothing, and household goods.

Special thanks to Mitzvah Day sponsors: Arlene & Bennett Brummer, Andy & Sharon Hirshik, Ann Pastor, and Izzy & Roz Shever for their financial support.

Thanks to Dr. Israel Winokor for donating dental supplies and to Congregation B’nai Israel’s Sisterhood for supplying the Casserole Brigade project.

Kudos to our business partners, The Bagel Bakery, Dragonfly Graphics and Dunkin Donuts, who offered discounts and in-kind donations.

Marcia Cohen Storch and Cindy Dern

Mitzvah Day volunteers are what make the day so successful. Thank you to all of who served and particularly to the team leaders: Meredith Whittington-Bacharach, Sabina Braverman, Dawn Burgess-Krop, Gia Campana, Jenneva Clauss, Annmarie Fearing, Erin King, Nancy Parks, David Pawliger, Jenifer Petrescu, Stephanie Savage, Emma Segal, Maddy Segal, Rachel Sharpe, Heath Lynn Silberfeld, Amy Storch, Marcia Cohen Storch, and Debra Trione.

Additional thanks go to all of the folks who helped schlepp things around town or organize behind the scenes: Marjorie Abrams, Cindy Dern, Ervene Katz, Randy Kraft, Nancy Parks, Sonya Salkin, Marcia Cohen Storch, and Dorie Stein.

The family that serves and works together ... Justin, Lynne and David Sobel
By Debby Kinman-Ford
PJ Library Co-coordinator

PJ Library has been on the run! We said goodbye to summer with the annual pool party in August and celebrated the fall holidays with a visit to the Roger’s Farm corn maze in October. For Mitzvah Day in November, we had a variety of family friendly projects available and we had an AMAZING turnout for the Hanukkah Party that we co-sponsored with the B’nai Israel Community Day School in December.

You’d think we’d slow down, catch our breath and relax, but no way!! The line-up of spring events is chock full of fun activities and we want you to mark your calendars now.

On Sunday, January 31 at 3 pm
PJ Library Gainesville Goes to Paynes Prairie for Tu Bi’Shevat
Meet at the LaChua Trailhead
Bring $4 for parking (cash only)
For more information and to RSVP, please contact Debby Kinman-Ford at 352.371.3846 ext. 101

On Sunday, April 10 from 3 to 4 pm, PJ Library heads to the Museum of Natural History for a Passover themed scavenger hunt. Can your family find all the missing seder pieces??

Finishing out our year is the annual community wide Israeli Independence Day picnic on Sunday, May 15.

PJ Library Gainesville
Inspiring Jewish Moments Through Reading

PJ Library Gainesville, a partnership between the Jewish Council and the B’nai Israel Community Day School, and is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and by generous contributions from the Jewish community of North Central Florida.
Ten Years of Beit Ruth: Lost Daughters

“...My family and I have always been very supportive of Israel,” proclaims Susan via a personal statement on the Beit Ruth website. “Several years ago (we were) at the opening of a new dormitory we helped fund at the Jaffa Institute’s Residential School for Boys at Risk, which is a wonderful, caring place that saves many young boys a life of abuse and neglect. I knew of several facilities like Jaffa’s in Israel and we were proud to be a part of one. I then asked if there was anything like this in Israel for girls and found that, other than a few lock-downs and group homes, there was nothing.”

And so began the Ashner’s quest. In 2006, the Beit Ruth Hostel, which accommodated 12 girls in the Tel-Aviv suburb of Rishon LeZion, was created as a partnership between the Jaffa Institute and the Women’s International Zionist Organization (WIZO). But the hostel was just the first stage. Ashner, and her husband, Michael, who is the co-founder and co-chair of the Beit Ruth Board of Directors, recognized that with individual love and attention, and with structured academic and therapeutic support, young women in distress could be empowered to overcome their struggles and achieve success and happiness.

Providing that level of support in a manner that could make a real impact on the tens of thousands of girls at-risk in Israel was not going to be possible in a 12 bed facility. Beit Ruth had to be bigger and the Ashner’s mission continued. The construction of the Beit Ruth Educational and Therapeutic Village began in fall 2011 and will take place over six phases while being populated gradually. Upon completion, the campus will include ten separate residential units and will eventually serve nearly 200 disadvantaged young women in Israel.

Over the last 10 years, Michael and Susan Ashner have personally invested and fundraised millions of dollars to make their dream come to fruition. Today, the Beit Ruth Educational and Therapeutic Village provides at-risk girls from communities across Israel with a small group setting in an aesthetically pleasing and supportive environment. Beit Ruth strives to ensure that at-risk girls in Israel are removed from the streets and given the opportunity to thrive socially, psychologically, and academically. By providing a safe, structured, warm home-like environment, Beit Ruth provides the academic and therapeutic resources necessary to enable at-risk girls to re-enter society as educated, independent and empowered women.

Groups of fifteen residents live together in beautiful, modern dormitories staffed 24-hours a day by a loving and supportive team of house managers, social workers and counselors. They ensure that all of the residents’ physical needs are met, including their food, clothing and healthcare services. The girls are engaged in the maintenance and upkeep of their home through a schedule of household chores and daily responsibilities.

Working at Beit Ruth has proved to be one of the most fulfilling experiences I have had. I have watched miraculous changes take place in girls whose lives at first seemed so hopeless. With a little positive reinforcement, their happiness is rejuvenated, and each girl learns to expect more from herself and strives to achieve change in her own life. Watching the Beit Ruth girls’ transformations has validated my coming here.

~ Emily Fish ~
MASA Career Israel Intern 2013

Beit Ruth girls are mentored by caring and supportive staff.

All girls participate in group activities that help them heal and develop coping and leadership skills.

Susan Ashner, co-founder of Beit Ruth, takes a very hands-on approach to her work.
In the first stage of treatment, these girls, many of whom have dropped out of school, will finish their high school studies and successfully complete their matriculation (Bagrut) requirements. They are taught by qualified teachers according to an intensive, recognized curriculum that meets all Ministry of Education standards. The small class setting and individualized student-teacher relationship ensures that the girls, who often arrive with significant gaps in their education, are able to catch up with other students their age.

The goal of the therapeutic component of the Beit Ruth program is to help each girl build and sustain strong relationships that promote a healthy self-perception and a positive world-view. Their unique personalities and needs are addressed by a holistic therapy program that utilizes mental, social, and recreational modalities. Every girl meets individually with a full time social worker to develop a deeper understanding of their individual situations and to empower them with the emotional capabilities to overcome the obstacles that once limited their potential. The girls also participate in group therapy sessions. By sharing in the experiences of others, girls realize that they are not alone in their struggles, which is an important part of the healing process.

Beit Ruth’s social and recreational therapies include art, music, drama, equine, and horticultural, as well as, regular physical fitness and community involvement. Horticultural Therapy is a unique and innovative therapeutic approach that involves the purposeful use of plants, horticultural activities, and garden environments to promote cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and psychological well-being for an individual or group.

Guided by a horticultural therapist working in cooperation with Beit Ruth staff, the girls develop hands-on skills associated with plant care while learning about the environment, agriculture, and sustainability. Horticulture therapy has been shown to be beneficial in a variety of healthcare, residential, educational, and rehabilitative settings. Beit Ruth has a beautiful organic fruit, vegetable, and flower garden with crops including lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, mango, banana, strawberries, and many more.

As part of the second stage of treatment, Beit Ruth aims to continue to support and work with these young women even after they leave the program and complete their public service. This unique, integrated, and creative therapeutic approach boasts an impressive success rate of 98%. The responsibility, work ethic, and career skills the girls develop at Beit Ruth enable them to reclaim their lives and to live their dreams. Beit Ruth’s graduates go on to become productive citizens, holding high ranking and important positions with the Israel Defense Forces, volunteering with the National Service, finding and maintaining gainful employment, furthering their education at the college level, and becoming loving wives and mothers.
**Tikkun Olam**
*(continued from page 1)*

Stacey’s advocacy for children is further evident in her professional life. By occupation, Stacey is a law professor at the University of Florida College of Law and teaches legal writing, juvenile law, and appellate advocacy. She spent seven years as a prosecutor in the Eighth Judicial Circuit with a focus on child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual crimes, and also worked for Children’s Legal Services.

As often happens in Gainesville, Stacey came here for college and never left, completing her undergraduate and law degree at the University of Florida. She met her husband, Ben Steinberg, at an Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity party, and they have been married for twelve years. Ben is also an attorney and practices with the law firm of Avera and Smith.

The Steinbergs (shown above) have three children; nine-year-old, Mason, who is a fourth grader in the STEM program at Stephen Foster Elementary, and four-year-old, Isaac, and two-year-old Gabrielle, both of whom attend B’nai Israel Community Day School. The Steinberg family participates in the PJ Library Program, which is sponsored in partnership with the Day School and funded through JCNCF. Stacey is an avid advocate for Jewish activities for families with young children as a means to cement Jewish life.

The poignancy of Stacey’s photography can be seen on her website at www.staceysteinbergphotography.com.

She expresses her hope in photographing sick children as capturing the love and beauty that existed before devastating illness came into their life. “Through my lens, I can see past the wires and IV’s and capture the love,” Stacey states. Her moving tribute to these children and families accomplishes that goal, and gives us all a glimpse of their courage and our mazel.

JCNCF is extremely fortunate to have this dedicated and talented woman as a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida. We gratefully thank her for her service to our entire community!

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New Moon, Yoga, and Judaism

By Erin Lang

In 2010, a time in my life when I was particularly steeped in the Jewish calendar and rituals on a day-to-day basis, I had the good fortune to take an extended vacation to immerse myself in a study of yoga at Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health. I deepened my practice of asana (yoga postures), meditation and yogic philosophy, and most of all, I got to know my breath. I learned that the breath is the vehicle of connection, alignment and union – of mind, body and, spirit. I already knew that, though – the Hebrew word ruach means both breath and spirit. To clarify, I carried an intellectual understanding of the spiritual power of the breath, but I hadn’t known it wholly and completely until I experienced it through my yoga practice. This is but one example of many ways in which Judaism has provided a spiritual context for my yoga practice, and in which yoga has enhanced my connection to Jewish tradition.

I emerged from my yoga teacher training with a vision for New Moon Yoga, a Rosh Hodesh gathering in which women in our community could connect through breath, movement and continue the lineage of Jewish women honoring the new beginning of each new month. B’nai Israel continues to support this program and to invite women throughout the broader Jewish community to attend. A diverse group of women have participated in the gatherings – all ages, shapes and sizes, some with existing yoga practices and some brand new to the yoga mat. Together we acknowledge the new month and its unique qualities, and we accept the opportunity for restoration and renewal with a gentle yoga practice, which is shaped by the themes and traditions of that particular Hebrew month. The practice is designed to help us not only be aware of Jewish time and seasons, but to feel the markers of the Jewish year in our breath and in our bones.

In any good yoga practice, one gets to slow down and experience the present moment; to stretch, strengthen, and experience one’s bodies with an increased sense of acceptance, gratitude and awe; and to connect authentically with community. And with New Moon, we get to do all of this in the context of Jewish tradition, under the hopeful and restorative sliver of new moon.

Future New Moon Yoga Meetings

Sundays at 6 pm

January 10
February 7
March 13
April 10
May 8

Congregation B’nai Israel Community Room
What’s Going on with Gainesville HADASSAH

Upcoming Hadassah Events for January

The Book Club will meet at Congregation B’nai Israel on Wednesday, January 13 at 7 pm. The group is reading *Heretic: Why Islam Needs A Reformation Now* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali.

The Rosh Chodesh group will meet at Congregation B’nai Israel on Tuesday, January 19 at 10 am. The featured speaker for this gathering is Gerold J. Kirkpatrick from the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) at Oak Hammock. He is a retired attorney who also served in the US Navy, attaining the rank of Captain. Capt. Kirkpatrick has taught graduate International Law classes at the Naval War College. He will speak about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from a global perspective.

Gainesville Hadassah members Rebecca Howard & Vera Rabino (in the background) are just a few of the dozen women who helped to organize move-in care baskets for Peaceful Paths on Mitzvah Day. Some of the items included in the laundry basket are blankets, sheets, towels, plates, silverware, glasses and other essential household goods.

The Jewish Council thanks team leader, Meredith Whittington-Bacharach, the ladies of Gainesville Hadassah, and all of the volunteers who made this project possible.

HADASSAH Membership Brunch Set for February

What? A lovely brunch surrounded by caring, dynamic women
When? Sunday, February 7 at 10:30 am
Where? At the Home of Roslyn Levy
Why? Because we like you! There is no charge and you can bring a friend—a prospective member.

Gayle Zachmann, Associate Professor of French at the University of Florida, will share her insights about Jewish life in Paris, France, where she lived for many years until moving back to Gainesville.

Kindly RSVP by February 4 to Shirley Haberman at habermans@gmail.com

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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@jcnf.org. Submissions may be edited as space allows. Pictures are welcome and encouraged! Transitions may include birth, engagement and wedding announcements, bar and bat mitzvah, graduations, promotions and honors, and memorials.

Mazel tov to Ronna and Jason Zaremski and big sister Zoe on the arrival of Abby Jordyn on August 19, 2015.

Congratulations to 2015 Business Award Winners Barry and Elaine Jacobson. Solar Impact was recognized by the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce for their commitment to the environment.

Mazel tov to Dr. Michael Okun on his appointment as Chair of the UF Department of Neurology. He is also the medical advisor for Tyler’s Hope for a Dystonia Cure and co-chair of the medical advisory board for the Tourette Syndrome Association. This year, Dr. Okun was honored at the White House as a Champion of Change for Parkinson’s disease.

Mazel to Dr. Michael Haller on his new position as Chief of Pediatric Endocrinology. In 2008, Dr. Haller, and his colleagues Dr. Desmond Schatz and Dr. Mark Atkinson received the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Award’s highest award, the Mary Tyler Moore and S. Robert Levine Excellence in Clinical Research Award, for their team approach to developing therapies for type 1 diabetes.

Mazel to Noah Shubert (photo above) on his Bar Mitzvah at Congregation B’nai Israel on December 26, 2015. Noah is a 7th grader currently living in Stuttgart, Germany and attending the International School of Stuttgart (ISS). This is Noah’s second time living abroad as his family was also in England from 2008 to 2010. He is the grandson of Beth Shubert and Hy Shubert of Gainesville and Ellie and Ed Ayervais of Glen Rock, NJ. When not gallivanting in Europe, Noah’s family lives permanently in Herndon, VA. Noah’s dad Adam lived in Gainesville for several years and his mom Dena grew up in Glen Rock.

Noah is a football fanatic, living each week of the season through his beloved Green Bay Packers. He also adopted his dad’s partiality to Florida State and Duke in all sports. When he is not watching sports, he is playing for the ISS soccer team, Stuttgart Select travel soccer, and is the starting running back for the Stuttgart Scorpions. His favorite school subjects are math, history and German, and he has been a key member of the ISS history bowl team, the current European champions. Noah also enjoys acting and robotics and is the sports reporter for ISS’s Shout Magazine.

His career ambition is to play in the NFL, but as his parents are currently forbidding him from playing tackle football, the second option is to be a sports journalist. Either way, Noah ultimately expects you will see him some day on ESPN Sports.

In Memoriam

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

Philip Kaplan, Stanley Werner, Blanche Sherman, Helene Thomson, and Jay Milton Rand

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.
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, Gainesville, FL 32611
352.392.9247

Congregation B’nai Israel (CBI-G)
Rabbi David Kaiman
Jenifer Petrescu, Executive Director
Suzanne Chester, Chavaya (Religious Education) Director
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www.bnaiaisraelcds.org
352.376.1508, ext 101

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

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

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

Temple Shir Shalom (TSS)
Rabbi Michael Joseph
Debbie Boada, Religious School Principal
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**

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

Congregation Beth Israel (CBI-O)
Rabbi Karen Allen
www.bethisraelocala.org
7171 SW Hwy 200, 34476
352.450.2056

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

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**An Evening to Honor Connie Stern**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, April 17, 2016**

**JOIN CONGREGATION B’NAI ISRAEL**

**WE WILL COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE CONNIE AND ALL SHE HAS DONE FOR OUR COMMUNITY**
## Jewish Community Calendar for January 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 4</strong></td>
<td>♦ CBI Intro to Judaism, 6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Israeli Folk Dancing, 7:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 5</strong></td>
<td>♦ TSS Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph, 9:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 6</strong></td>
<td>♦ CBI Friendship Circle, 10:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Yoga with Chaya, 5:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Beginning Hebrew, 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ JCNCF Caregivers Support Group, 7 pm. For location and more information, please contact Lori Waxenberg at <a href="mailto:loribwax@gmail.com">loribwax@gmail.com</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 7</strong></td>
<td>♦ Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala is having a luncheon at 12:30 pm. RSVP by January 3 to Mary Chang at 352.450.2056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 8</strong></td>
<td>♦ CBI Yiddush Chavura, 9:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 10</strong></td>
<td>♦ CBI New Moon Yoga with Erin Lang, 6 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 11</strong></td>
<td>♦ CBI Intro to Judaism, 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Israeli Folk Dancing 7:15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 12</strong></td>
<td>♦ TSS Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph, 9:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Torah on Tuesday with Rabbi Kaiman, 12 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 13</strong></td>
<td>♦ CBI Friendship Circle, 10:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Yoga with Chaya, 5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Beginning Hebrew, 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Hadassah Book Club, 7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ TSS Back to Basics with Rabbi Joseph, part 1, 7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 15</strong></td>
<td>♦ CBI Yiddush Chavura, 9:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 16</strong></td>
<td>♦ CBI Musica with Karen Cohen, 11 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 18</strong></td>
<td>♦ Martin Luther King Jr. Day CBI Intro to Judaism, 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Israeli Folk Dancing, 7:15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 19</strong></td>
<td>♦ TSS Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph, 9:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Gainesville Hadassah Rosh Hodesh Group, 10 am Gerold J. Kirkpatrick will speak about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from a Global Perspective</td>
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<tr>
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<td>♦ CBI Torah on Tuesday with Rabbi Kaiman, 12 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 20</strong></td>
<td>♦ CBI Friendship Circle, 10:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Yoga with Chaya, 5:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Beginning Hebrew, 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ TSS Back to Basics, part 2, 7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 22</strong></td>
<td>♦ CBI Yiddush Chavura, 9:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 25</strong></td>
<td>♦ Tu Bi’Shevat</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Intro to Judaism, 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Israeli Folk Dancing, 7:15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 26</strong></td>
<td>♦ TSS Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph, 9:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Torah on Tuesday with Rabbi Kaiman, 12 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 27</strong></td>
<td>♦ CBI Friendship Circle, 10:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Yoga with Chaya, 5:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ CBI Beginning Hebrew, 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ East and West 3 Cantorial Music Concert at Cong. B’nai Israel, 7 pm - $18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 31</strong></td>
<td>♦ Beit Ruth Brunch - Sponsored and hosted by Kim Sandler Cohen, 10:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>♦ PJ Library Tu Bi’Shevat Tour at Paynes Prarie, 3 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Highlights from This Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beit Ruth</th>
<th>page 1</th>
<th>PJ Library Events</th>
<th>page 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tikkun Olam Profile</td>
<td>page 1</td>
<td>Beit Ruth continued</td>
<td>pages 8 - 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel Action Network Grant</td>
<td>page 2</td>
<td>Tikkun Olam continued</td>
<td>page 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and West 3 Concert</td>
<td>page 3</td>
<td>New Moon Yoga</td>
<td>page 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Campaign</td>
<td>page 4</td>
<td>Hadassah</td>
<td>page 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel in Brief</td>
<td>page 5</td>
<td>Transitions</td>
<td>page 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitzvah Day Follow-up</td>
<td>page 6</td>
<td>January Calendar</td>
<td>page 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Save These Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHEN</th>
<th>JCNCF PROGRAMS &amp; EVENTS</th>
<th>WHERE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 6, 7 pm</td>
<td>Caregivers Support Group</td>
<td>JCNCF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 27, 7 pm</td>
<td>East and West 3 Cantorial Concert</td>
<td>Cong. B’nai Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, January 31, 10:30 am</td>
<td>Beit Ruth Brunch</td>
<td>Hosted by Kim Sandler Cohen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, January 31, 3 pm</td>
<td>PJ Library Tu Bi’Shevat</td>
<td>Paynes Prairie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 27, 6:30 pm</td>
<td>PJ Library PJ’s, Pizza, and Havdalah</td>
<td>Temple Shir Shalom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 13, time TBA</td>
<td>Jewish Film Festival Kick Off</td>
<td>Hippodrome Theatre</td>
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