

January / February 2016

CONGREGATION OF
REFORM JUDAISM

CHAI

"A joyful community that inspires the soul, builds relationships, and engages the world"

STEVEN W. ENGEL
Rabbi

JACQUELINE RAWISZER
Cantor

MICHAEL KANCHER
Executive Director

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Congregation of Reform Judaism
Founded 1950

Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

928 Malone Drive
Orlando, Florida 32810
407-645-0444
407-645-2383 fax
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from the desk of:

Rabbi Steven Engel

There is certainly a lot of tension felt in our lives these days. A series of shootings and domestic terrorism, a struggling economy and a government that seems to get little or nothing done. Closer to home there are illnesses and losses, family stresses and work pressures and the list goes on. Our Jewish history and tradition teaches us that although we can't run away from it all or always shut it all out, we can find places of refuge in our lives to soften the clamor and find some temporary solace. I am hoping one of the places you might think of finding these is your congregation. Through quieter moments of reflection and prayer or through the spirited feeling of music and holiday celebrations or by sustained or new relationships we hope you might find something meaningful and helpful. Moments of learning can be a diversion from the clamor of the world and keep your mind refocused on something different. Of course, I am always here as your Rabbi to help you through it all and we have congregants, our caring committee, our hospital visitation committee, and others who reach out to fellow congregants offering assistance in a variety of ways. Congregation of Reform Judaism is always here for you when you need it, because of your support and commitment to a thriving, dynamic and caring congregation. When you're feeling a little overwhelmed or a little stressed or a little disconnected your CRJ is here. I hope you're comforted and happy about that. I sure am happy as your Rabbi to begin 2016 with you!

Steve

Save the Date
April 16

HONORING RABBI STEVEN W. ENGEL'S 18TH YEAR

DINNER • ENTERTAINMENT • SILENT AUCTION

CONGREGATION OF
REFORM JUDAISM

Gala
2016



from the President:

Mark S. Blechman

It's *Chai time*.....again! Writing this message is always an interesting endeavor due to the fact that it must be completed four to six weeks before it is sent out. For this message I am writing in November for distribution in January. If I were to write about how fabulous the Biennial was, with all of the educational offerings, social opportunities and spiritual fulfillment, it would be a stale read a month and a half later.....If I were to write about our congregational and hometown hero, Peter Gold and how proud I am of him and offer prayers for his recovery and his family's strength; the prayers would have already been given and hopefully he would be well on his way to being fully recovered.....If I were to write about our December 4th Family Shabbat dinner and "Gefilte the Fish", you would have already attended and had a wonderful time, and the same with our CRJ Chanukkah dinner on December 11th, sponsored by the Women of CRJ, Sisterhood!!!! Heck, even all eight days of the Festival of Lights would have come and gone!!!!

Let's face it, much happened in November and December! And now it's another new year. Hopefully you're bundled up, relaxing by the fireplace or having a college bowl game on the tube (boy is that ever anachronistic) and reading this... with an excited feeling of what's in store for us in the coming year.

Right off the bat, we have a new webpage created by our Board of Director, Brian Margolis and his company, Crank Communications. The new design, ease of navigation, and offering of current information is a huge asset to our community, in this age of the internet (thank you Al Gore) and need for immediacy. The site will allow us to update information for our members much quicker and therefore make it more relevant. As a result, I would encourage you to check in with us via the homepage on a regular basis.

On February 28th, 2016, our Rabbi will have the Torah Scribe at our synagogue so we may all write our new Torah. This is obviously a unique opportunity for each of our members, and particularly each of our children (since it will be a Torah for our youth). As I told you during Rosh Hashana, with apologies to the rest of the Board, the Rabbi has given me the special honor of writing all the vowels in the Torah. I have been working tirelessly to get ready for the honor and invite you to come write our new Torah.

Speaking of Chai..... please save the date for our Spring Philanthropic Event, wherein we will acknowledge and honor our Rabbi's eighteen years with our congregation on Saturday, April 16th, 2016.

In closing, I do want to make mention again of what an amazing young man Peter Gold is and how bravely he acted. I wish for him and his family a swift recovery and return to his studies and life. I hope you had a celebratory New Year's Eve, and wish a happy and healthy new year to you all.

Mark S. Blechman



from the Director of Education:

Sheryl Sacharoff, Ed.D

"Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement.get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed."

- Abraham Joshua Heschel

Two incredible men were born in the month of January and stood together to ensure that the concepts of peace and understanding in our world were heard. As we approach Martin Luther King, Jr Day, I am struck by his message of peace and justice and that same vision equally shared by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Each man, contemporaries of each other, was seen as a prophet in his time. Both men had a great friendship and shared a great respect for each other's backgrounds and beliefs. Rabbi Heschel's daughter, Suzanna, stated that the two men, despite their differences in background became the closest of friends. Their mutual concern for equality and racial justice sparked their courageous bond. Both men firmly believed that racism was not only wrong, it was evil. A seminal moment was when Heschel marched with King in Selma, Alabama. "When I marched with Martin Luther King in Selma," Heschel said, "I felt my legs were praying".

I am very proud to feature in this column about justice the exquisite and poignant work of Rachel Long. As a teen who became a bat mitzvah at CRJ, Rachel is currently a first year madricha (teaching assistant) in the Steinmetz Family School of Chai. Her second graders as well as Morah Scanlon, whom Rachel assists, love her! Rachel also assists Cantor Jacki with the Kol Tikvah Youth Choir. It is truly an honor to



share Rachel's award winning digital photo presentation of her Beta Club convention with all of you. In Rachel's words, her photo portrays some parts of her heritage which others may not know very much about. She had to use all original photos and digitally combine them into one. She chose to do one with meaning to her that shows a


burning cross overlaid by the yellow Star of David that the Nazis forced Jews to wear. The eye in the photo is Rachel's. I cannot help relating Rachel's work to a quote by Martin Luther King, "Everything that we see is a shadow cast by that which we do not see".

Dr King said, "The time is always right to do what is right." As we celebrate the birthdays of two great men and honor their vision for uprightness, let us use our voices, our power, our feet to help remove that shadow of injustice in our community and in our world.

From my family to yours, I wish you peace, love and health in 2016!

Sheryl

YEP Presents: #SeeMediaJewishly
Tweet, Post, and Chat about today's news through a Jewish lens.



Be a part of YEP's 2015-16 program, #SeeMediaJewishly, and use social media to investigate the hard hitting news stories that affect you now and in the future.

Over lunch, you and your friends will be able to view today's biggest stories, from multiple perspectives, and also discuss the issues that matter. There will also be opportunities to Skype, chat, and interact with the journalists who write the stories, as well as other guests who will bring a Jewish perspective to these news stories.

Classes will meet from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm on Sundays & LUNCH IS INCLUDED!

2016 Session Dates & Tuition (Session B)
Jan 10, Jan 24, Feb 22, Mar 6

Tuition: \$100 (If you are in 8th grade, or had your Bar/Bat Mitzvah in 2014/15, your first year in YEP is free as a B'nai Mitzvah gift!)

Your Media Managers are
Dr. Sheryl Sacharoff & Justin Sacharoff
CONGREGATION OF REFORM JUDAISM

This program made possible in part by a grant from the Jewish Teen Education Network of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando.



Please join us for the first monthly gathering of the new **CRJ Rosh Chodesh Group** beginning on Weds, January 6 @ 7:00 PM in observance of Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat. All are welcome! For further information, contact Cantor Jacki at jrawiszer@crjorlando.org.



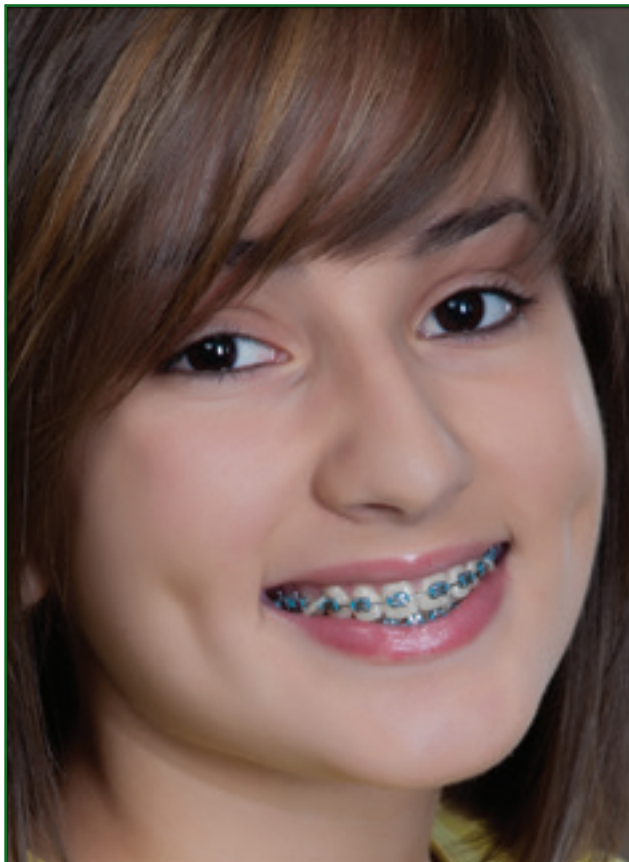
Babies & Blocks

Babies and Blocks, a mommy and me program for families raising Jewish children. This program features an hour of music, stories, and activates engaging fine and gross motor skills. This group is for children 3-10 months. This group meets on the third Tuesday of each month unless otherwise noted. If you have any questions or would like to get involved in the group please contact Julie Begani jbegani@crjorlando.org. Mark these days in your calendar

THURSDAY January 21 @ 11am, with Cantor Jacki
THURSDAY February 18 @ 11am with Rabbi Engel
RSVP to www.crjorlando.org/preschool



Join Rabbi Engel and Cantor Jacki for a 30 minute music filled Shabbat Service for kids 0-6 yrs. & siblings the first Friday of the month at 5:30pm.
February 5 | March 4 | April 1 | May 6 | June 3



*"When you're smiling,
the whole world
smiles with you."*

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a free initial consultation with
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CRJ Sisterhood

"Without You, We Are One Sister Short"

Happy 2016!! I hope you had a fun filled and joyous Chanukah season. I want to share some of the activities Sisterhood presented in the fall and introduce some of the upcoming activities.

The Second Annual CRJ Sisterhood Mah Jongg Tournament was held on November 1, 2015. Seventy-two women from CRJ and the Orlando community played for cash prizes. The day included 3 rounds of 4 games, a boxed lunch from Bagel King and raffles. A great time was had by all!

The Family Hanukkah Dinner was held on Friday, December 11, 2015. A lovely meal of roast chicken and latkes was served. More than 120 people participated in the meal and the group lighting of menorahs that evening.

Sunday, January 24, 2016 - YES Fund Luncheon honoring Cantor Jacki Rawiszer. This tribute luncheon will focus of the many accomplishments and contributions our own Cantor Jacki has made to CRJ, the Orlando Jewish community and the Reform movement. The luncheon is open to everyone. \$20 per person, advance reservations are required. Proceeds from the luncheon will benefit the YES fund. Luncheon begins at 1:00 PM. Please RSVP to MaryEllen Caplan at mecaplan@hotmail.com

The Women of Reform Judaism YES (Youth, Education, and Special Projects) Fund represents the collective financial efforts of individual donors and WRJ affiliated sisterhoods to strengthen the Reform Movement and ensure the future of Reform Judaism. YES Fund grants from WRJ provide Reform Jewish institutions and individuals worldwide with the tools necessary for religious, social and educational growth.

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 - All Fired Up. The Women of CRJ are having an evening out at All Fired Up in Winter Park. This an opportunity to be creative and enjoy each other's company. Each participant selects their own piece of unfinished pottery to paint and decorate. The cost to each participant varies by the size and types of pottery selected. Participants are allowed to bring snacks and beverages. Sisterhood will provide some sweet treats! All are welcome to attend. RSVP to Carolyn Weinstein at CarolynLW66@aol.com

Sunday, February 21, 2016 - Fashion Show. Come see what is new and trendy from local retailers. Fashions for adults and children will be featured. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Beverly Smith at thetink@hotmail.com

Sunday March 6, 2016 - Blanket making to benefit children and teens of the Orlando Coalition for the Homeless. Each participant is asked to bring two pieces of fleece to make a blanket. Instructions will be available in advance so the fleece can be purchased and brought to the program. No sewing is required. Each blanket can be completed during the program time. Refreshments will be served. All completed blankets will be donated to Orlando Coalition



Mah Jongg tournament winners:

1st Place - Coral Ambuter, 2nd Place - Sylvia Fultz, 3rd Place - Karen Watzman and Mah Jongg tournament chairperson,

for the Homeless, so that each teen can have something of their own.

Monday, April 11, 2016 - Community Wide Women's Seder. The Annual Women's Seder is a delightful evening of familiar rituals and songs. The special Passover Haggadah tells the traditional story from the female perspective. The evening includes a catered holiday meal. This fun, multigenerational event fills up quickly, please make your reservations early. RSVP to Helene Becker at hfrbecker@aol.com

More information to follow on several events, currently in the planning stages:

May 22, 2016 - Spring Mah Jongg Madness

June 4, 2016 - Sunset Picnic, Havdalah Service and Chant Circle

June 24, 2016 - Sisterhood Shabbat

June 25, 2016 - Havdalah Service with Pot Luck Dinner & Installation of New Officers

All of our events are open to the entire CRJ community; you do not need to be a Sisterhood member to participate....of course we would love for you to join! Also, each of our events is an opportunity for Sisterhood members to take on a leadership role at CRJ. We welcome new members and ideas. Remember: Without you, we are one Sister short.

Shalom,
Carolyn

FRIEND US!



www.facebook.com/CRJOrlando

School of Chai

<https://www.facebook.com/SchoolOfChai>

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RABBI ENGEL



@RabbiSteveEngel



CRJ Seniors

I hope that all of you had a great Thanksgiving, Chanukah and New Year and are looking forward to our continuing CRJ Seniors programs, beginning January 21, 2016 at noon with our annual colossal, spectacular BINGO! As usual, Mel Kahn will call the numbers and bring the pizza. We have a wonderful group of more than 60 persons of the age of 60 or older, who meet on the third Thursday of each month at noon, September through May, enjoying exciting programs of interests and entertainment. New members and guests are always welcome. Annual dues are only \$10 and a light lunch will usually be served to members for \$5 and to guests for \$8. Following is our remaining programs for the 2015-2016 year. We would love to have you join our seniors group. If any of you have any questions, would like to serve on one of our committees or run for any of our officers, contact me, allanmyersdmd@gmail.com

Programs:

- Jan. 21, 2016** BINGO
- Feb. 18, 2016** Our Own, Cantor Jacki
- Mar. 17, 2016** League of Women Voters with Adrienne Katz
- Apr. 21, 2016** Jewish History in the U.S. with Murray Toborowsky
- May 19, 2016** Installation of Officers for 2016-2017

Officers for 2015-2016 are:

President - Dr. Allan Myers
 Past President 2005- 2006 through 2013-2014 - Mel Kohn
 Co-Vice President - Elaine Sonne
 Co-Vice President - Florence Goldman
 Secretary - Louise Frankel
 Treasurer - Joseph Weinberg

Committee Chairs are:

At Large - Gary Becker
 Catering - Helene Becker
 Hospitality - Roz Greenhut
 Membership - Judy Weinberg
 Program - Elaine Sonne
 Telephone - Louise Frankel
 Hope to see you on Jan. 21st,

Dr. Allan Myers, President, CRJ Seniors

Please join us for the first monthly gathering of the new CRJ Rosh Chodesh Group beginning on **Wednesday, January 6 @ 7:00 PM** in observance of Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat. All are welcome! For further information, please contact Cantor Jacki at jrawiszer@crjorlando.org.



Sisterhood Gift Shop

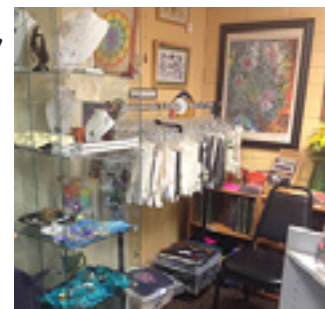
Purim, Passover Coming soon!!!

We have all that you need for these occasions.

Groggers and masks, new beautiful seder plate, matza and afikomin covers by Yair Emanuel. Many more seder plates to choose from.

New Stock: amazing necklaces designed by artist Jackie Olineck, Chai, Star and Hamsa necklaces from Copa Judaica, Wooden Tzedakah Boxes.

Cut out coupon below and come shop at the Sisterhood Gift Shop. All proceeds are used for purchases or donations to CRJ, CRJ Teen Groups and Steinmetz School of Chai. Large variety of all types of gift items always available.



CRJ Sisterhood Gift Shop Coupon

20% off any one item in the shop

Excludes tallit sets and books - Valid Jan 1 - Feb 29, 2016

Hours: Sunday Religious School Days - 9:15am-12:45pm

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday (9am-5pm), Friday (9am-3pm). Please call before coming so a staff member will be ready to assist you.



Custom

INVITATIONS & STATIONARY

at discount prices with no sales tax are yours through the Sisterhood gift shop. Make an appointment to order your Bar or Bat Mitzvah, wedding or any party invitations, Hold the Date cards, etc.

Contact either Helene Becker, 407-221-3958, email at hfrbecker@aol.com or Beverly Smith, 407-461-1663, thetink@hotmail.com.

All profits go to Sisterhood projects for CRJ.



No experience necessary—just come try it!

Contact jbegani@crjorlando.org or call CRJ to register/info about classes

Register online at www.crjorlando.org

“Wise Aging”, Taught by Dr. Zena Sulkes

Monday mornings 10:30am– 12pm on Jan 4, 11, and 25
Session Price: \$18 CRJ Members \$36 Community Members

This class will focus on how aging can be a good thing. We will discuss how we can face this process by utilizing our power to navigate the challenges of aging. We will explore how Judaism’s teachings can help us make the most of this time to become deeper, wiser people.

“What Do the Rabbi’s Say”, Taught by Clergy Aide Gary Becker

Thursday evenings, 7:00 - 8:15 January 14, 28 & Feb. 4
Session Price: \$18 CRJ Members \$36 Community Members

What are the Reform Rabbi’s responses to contemporary questions posed by congregants? These three sessions will cover a wide range of topics and will involve attendees in discussing what they think the response to a question would have been, followed by sharing what the Rabbis have said. Great opportunity to find out how modern day, Reform Judaism, provides answers and guidance to a wide range of real life issues and concerns. The sessions will include group discussion and the opportunity for attendees to pose questions.

Although attendance at all sessions is encouraged, each session is stand-alone so please feel free to register even if you know you cannot attend all sessions.

Hebrew II, Taught by Stewart Anderson

Monday evenings @ 6:30-7:30- 1/11, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/22, 2/29, 3/7, & 3/14

Book: Aleph Isn’t Tough: Hebrew for Adults Book 1 by Linda Motzkin – Cost \$21

Session Price: \$18 CRJ Members \$36 Community Members

Continue raising your proficiency in reading Hebrew while building your skills in translating what you are reading in the siddur! You will be much more comfortable with your ability to read and understand prayers, the Haggadah, etc. Don’t stop now! Join us for 8 stress-free sessions that will empower you on your lifelong Jewish learning journey!

Exploring Shabbat, Taught by Robin Anderson

Thursday evenings @7:00-8:00pm – 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25
Session Price: \$18 CRJ Members \$36 Community Members

In this class we will explore Shabbat from many angles and perspectives. What does the Torah say about Shabbat? How have rabbis and philosophers explained the

significance of Shabbat through the ages? How does it relate to contemporary life? How do various people find Shabbat meaningful or enriching to daily life?

Jews in American History, Taught by Murray Toborowsky
9:45am – 11 Sundays February 7, 21, 28 & March 6

Session Price: \$18 CRJ Members \$36 Community Members

Course begins with talking about the 3 waves of Jewish immigration, Sephardic, German, and East European. What impact the Jews had on America. Where, when and why did the first Jews come here. Questions such as was Columbus Jewish? How did a famous old west Marshall wind up with a Jewish wife? What Jewish family owned Monticello longer than Thomas Jefferson? Why was this 19th. century business man’s picture hanging in many Southern African-American homes? What effect did the Hebrew bible have on the early Puritans?

Book Club – Meets at CRJ at 12:30pm Open to CRJ Members at no cost

January 12: “All the Light we Cannot See” by A. Doerr
February 16: “The Boys in the Boat” by D. James
March 15: “Go Set a Watchman” by H. Lee
April 12: “The Girl on the Train” by P. Hawkins
May 17: “The Light Between Oceans” by M.L. Stedman
June 14: “The Storm of the Century” by A. Roker

Nosh of Judaism: A Eight-Week Course on Basic Judaism
taught by Rabbi Steven Engel

Mondays from 7:00 - 9:00pm January 11, 25, February 1, 8, 22, 29, March 7, and 14

Topical material taught by Rabbi Steven Engel. Practicum taught by guest experts. This course is especially for Jewish people who want to brush up on their basics, those Contemplating Conversion & Interfaith Couples. Learn about Holidays, Lifecycle Events, History, Midrash, the Holocaust, Modern Israel, Ritual Objects, and the Differences between Judaism & Christianity. Experience pages of the Talmud, Jewish Cooking, the Jewish Internet. Find out what Judaism says about God & Prayer, Circumcision & Afterlife.

Session Price: \$80 per person/ \$130 per couple. The fee will cover supplementary materials & food. Books are extra; a link will be e-mailed out so everyone can order their books. [Scholarships are available based on financial need].

Adult B’nai Mitzvah Program

Cantor Jacqueline Rawiszer - Director

Thank you for your interest in the Adult B’nai Mitzvah Class at CRJ. The program will begin on Thursday, January

14, 2016. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. A detailed schedule and course outline will be sent to you at a later time. The date of the Adult B'nai Mitzvah is Saturday, December 3, 2016. You must have previously taken Nosh of Judaism with Rabbi Engel to participate in this program.

Program Fee: \$360

Course Structure:

Aleph – Liturgy, Structure of the Siddur & Hebrew Review

Bet – Jewish Background including: History, Literature & Thought

Gimmel – Cantillation of Scripture

Dalet – Practicum

Topic: The End of Life: How Do I Prepare For Myself or For Others. Sunday, April 3rd

What does Judaism say about the end of life? sustaining life? prolonging life? We'll also explore the medical, ethical, and practical aspects featuring experts in each of these fields. An interactive and hands-on approach to this hot topic.

CRJ CHAVURAH

Many congregants responded to the congregational survey in September with an interest in being a part of a new Chavurah in 2016. If you are curious please attend the first informational meeting on January 31, 2016 at the CRJ chapel from 11 to 12:30. You do not need to sign up. Just show up! You will learn all about Chavurot, how groups are formed and what groups do.

Gwen Kotler is the facilitator and will share some of her experiences as a member in two different chavurot. Each chavurah is unique and the members make all of the decisions as to the structure and content of the group. I hope to see you there and please email me if you need more information. Gwen Kotler, gwen.kotler@gmail.com

NEW CRJ GAME NIGHT GROUP BEGINNING

In September Cathy Lieblich chaired a committee that sent a survey to all of the congregants at CRJ inquiring of peoples' interests in old and new programs at the temple. 17 adults responded to one of the new programs on the survey, that being game night. I agreed to facilitate this group.

We will have our first meeting on Sunday January 24th at the CRJ social hall from 9:30 to 11 am. Many CRJ congregants have signed up to attend this group and it is open to anyone else who would like to participate. This group is for adults age 21+. Just show up on the meeting date if you are interested. We will be planning the what, where, when of the group and frequency of meetings. We anticipate there will be many suggestions of the types of games we will play. I think it will be a lot of fun as I like

playing games like bridge, mah jongg, card and board games.

If you have any questions please contact me, Gwen Kotler, gwen.kotler@gmail.com.

CRJ Second Night Seder: April 23, 2016 at 6pm

Passover Is Almost Here! Time To Begin Thinking About Your Seder Plans!

Join CRJ for a Second Night Seder led by Clergy Aide Gary Becker. The Seder is open to congregants and the community. Registration details to follow.

Shabbat Shirah - A Unique Shabbat of Song - Featuring the Award Winning Yuval Ron Ensemble at CRJ

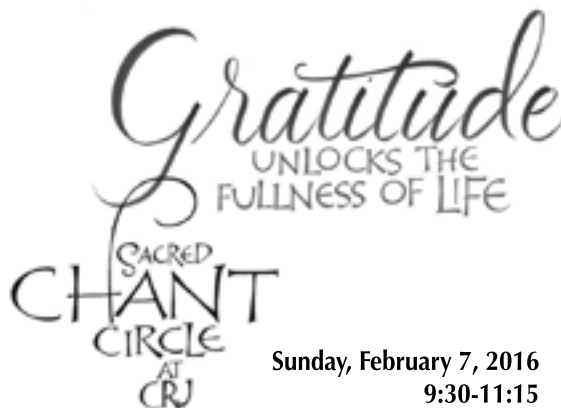
Join us On Friday, January 22, 2016 at 6:00 PM for an extraordinary musical Shabbat experience featuring the award winning Yuval Ron Ensemble. We begin with a brief, spiritual Kabbalat Shabbat service, followed by a music performance that invokes the spirit of the Kabbalistic tradition. Beautiful. Sacred. Powerful.



This unique event is a rare opportunity to experience the beauty of the Yuval Ron Ensemble and is not to be missed. To learn more about the Yuval Ron Ensemble: Websites: www.yuvalronmusic.com | https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yuval_Ron

The 2016-2017 Board of Director's Nominating

Committee will be chaired by Cliff Selsky. Anyone wishing to run for a position on the Board should contact Cliff at cselsky1@cfl.rr.com



**Sunday, February 7, 2016
9:30-11:15**

Multi-Purpose Room

Light refreshments will be served

Special Guest Chant Leaders from GORFTY

RSVP Linda Flower Gross: crjchant@gmail.com

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
INVITES YOU TO A

Women for Israel Community Tu BiShvat Seder



Thursday, January 21, 2016

7:00 pm



Congregation Ohev Shalom

613 Concourse Pkwy S. • Maitland, FL 32751



Led by

Cantor Kim Singer of Temple Shir Shalom and Cathy Swerdlow

Celebrate Tu BiShvat and enjoy a lively, interactive Seder with singing, dancing, learning and sharing. The Seder is a great way to appreciate JNF's investment in Israel and experience the delicious bounty of the land through sampling foods from the seven species.

No cost to attend • In partnership with local synagogue sisterhoods

RSVP by January 18 to **RSVPOrlando@jnf.org** or 407.804.5568.

For more information, contact Laura Abramson at labramson@jnf.org

Please note that heightened security measures will be in place. Pre-registration and I.D.s are mandatory. Bags are subject to being checked.

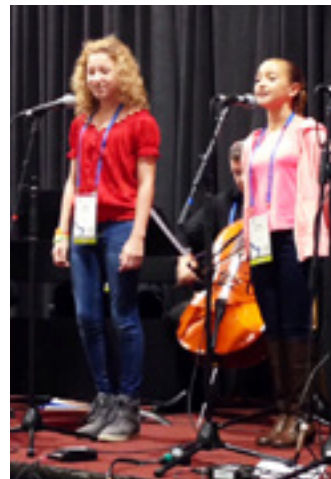


Your Voice in Israel

jnf.org • 800.JNF.0099



CRJ President Mark Blechman lights the 4th candle at the CRJ Executive Board meeting.



Kol Tikvah and Shir Joy under the direction of Cantor Jacki performed brilliantly on the Jewish Rock Radio Stage at the URJ Biennial on November 4, 2015



The Orlando Interfaith Choir Premiere Performance: URJ Biennial November 5, 2015, Orlando FL



January / February Donations

BUTTERFLY GARDEN FUND

Becky Halligan

In memory of Lee Coplan

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Betty Ginsberg

In appreciation of being on the Mi Shebeirach List

Melanie & Harold Forman

In memory of granddaughter, Ava Sylvia Forman

Gwen & Morton Kotler

In memory of Janet Sabean, sister of Gwen

Lisa & Michael Slone

In honor of Harrison becoming Bar Mitzvah

Rachel Heimovics & Mati Braun

In memory of Evelyn Solomonov
In memory of Bella Tresser

Gary T. Baumgarten & family

In memory of Agie Janovitz

Barbara & Paul Grossman

In honor of Mitch Menaker's Birthday

Judy Godorov

Thank you to Cantor Jacki for helping make Jessica's Bat Mitzvah so special

The Tresser Family

In memory of Bella Tresser

Brian & Rachel Wheeler

In honor of Gavin's Bar Mitzvah

Lee, Steve & Joni Bernbaum

In appreciation of Cantor Jacki

CANTOR HAROLD DWORKIN LRC FUND

Jean Becker

In memory of brother, Harry Solomon

CULTURAL ARTS FUND

Debbie Gold

In memory of Evelyn Solomonov, sister of Ava Maxwell

Melanie & Harold Forman

In honor of the marriage of Sammy Goldstein & Bill Yahner

Mort Kotler

In memory of Shirlee Kotler

DENISE COHEN LIBRARY FUND

Ellen & Simon Snyder

In memory of Agnes Janovitz, mother of Ilyse Katz

Allison Levie

In memory of grandmother, Frances Levie

Rita & Jeffrey Adler

In memory of Agie Janovitz

Joy Dreyfus & Family

In memory of my beloved friend, Agie Janovitz

Laura Zemel

In memory of Agie Janovitz

Beverly B. Smith

In memory of Agie Janovitz

Linda Baum

In memory of Agie Janovitz

FEED THE HOMELESS FUND

Louise Frankel

In memory of Frances Peetluk
In memory of William Petchesky
In memory of Marion Frankel
In honor of Georgia Bernbaum's Bat Mitzvah
In memory of Barry Hershone
In memory of Sam Frankel
In memory of George Frankel
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Jessica Nolte

The Taylor Family

In memory of Edwin C. Madden, Jr.

Florence Adler

In memory of father, William Berger

Karen & Smokey Knudsen

In memory of Agie Janovitz

Irving & Carol Esner

In memory of Jo Ann Barody

The Taylor Family

Best wishes for Peter Gold's quick recovery

Gayle Zamore

In memory of Agie Janovitz

Naomi Cohen-Adsit

In memory of Sheldon Cohen

Pearl Metz

In memory of William Metz

Carmen Berrios

Donation

Steven Heller

In memory of Bernard Heller

Helene & Gary Becker

In memory of Esther Siegel

Rosalind Greenhut

In memory of sister, Bernice Wexler

Susan & David Newman

In memory of Hilda Newman
In memory of Flora Heimann

Pearl Metz

In memory of beloved cousin, Dale Fisher

GENERAL FUND

Robert & Laurel Weinberg

In honor of granddaughter Charlotte Weinberg's naming

Winifred Eis

In memory of O.W."Bing" Miller

Rosalind Levitt

In memory of Chaim Levitt

Elayne Wershil

In memory of Jeffrey Wershil

Dr. Allan & Diane Myers

In honor of the marriage of Norma & Jola

Dr. Lee Weisberger

In appreciation of a beautiful Shabbat service

Fran Lepow

In memory of Agie Janovitz

Marilyn Barr

In memory of Murray P. Barr

HOWARD ALTMAN CARING COMMUNITY FUND

Alma DiGloria

In honor of the marriage of Bill Yahner & Sammy Goldstein

Debbie Gold

In honor of the marriage of Sammy Goldstein & Bill Yahner

Sheryl & Alex Sacharoff

In honor of the marriage of Sammy Goldstein & Bill Yahner

Susan Olsson

In memory of brother, Jerome Nachimson

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND

Dr. Allan & Diane Myers

In honor of Rabbi Engel & Cantor Jacki for the beautiful Shabbat Blessings in honor of our Wedding Anniversary

THE MEMORIAL FUND

Mrs. Mickey Meyers

In memory of David Meyers

PRAYER BOOK FUND

Betty Stone

In memory of beloved husband, Dr. Arthur Stone

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Helen Tetenbaum

In memory of dear friend, Joseph Scianna
In memory of beloved brother, Meyer Blumberg

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Tetenbaum

In memory of Etta Tetenbaum

Brian & Rachel Wheeler

In honor of Gavin's Bar Mitzvah

Jane Gleick

In memory of Beatrice Lowenthal

Dorene Kramer & Michele Bloom

In memory of Everett Kramer, beloved husband of Dorene Kramer,
beloved father of Michele Bloom

Shyla & Steve Reich

In appreciation of Rabbi Engel, Cantor Jacki, Zena Sulkes, & Michael Kancher for the love and support they gave Evvie, our granddaughter, for her Bat Mitzvah

Marjorie Helman

In memory of Father, Edward Rubin

Brian & Rachel Wheeler

In honor of Gavin's Bar Mitzvah

Lisa & Michael Slone

In honor of Harrison's Bar Mitzvah

Melanie & Harold Forman

In memory of granddaughter, Ava Sylvia Forman

Marilyn Goldman

In honor of Rabbi Engel's birthday

Judy Godorov

In honor of Rabbi Engel

Dr. Melvin Tresser

In memory of Bella Tresser

Richard Seidman

In memory of Lisa Lawrence Seidman

Lillian Berkowitz

In memory of Harry Migdal

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL EDUCATION FUND

Dan Freeman & Zena Sulkes Freeman

In honor of Georgia Bernbaum's Bat Mitzvah
In memory of parents, Florence & Meyer Wax

Allan & Karen Burnstine

In memory of Edith Plotkin
In memory of Barbara Leff, cousin of Zena
Best Wishes for Peter Gold's speedy recovery

Esther Wolman & Joseph Galkin

In honor of Sammy Goldstein & Bill Yahner's wedding celebration

Beverly B. Smith

In memory of Stephen Feinman
In memory of beloved mother, Selma Bodanoff

Ellen & Simon Snyder

In memory of Mark Sander Darlow

Ellen & Charles Silverman

In memory of beloved mother, Grace Fine Silverman

Allan & Lori Struletz

Wishing Peter Gold a speedy recovery

SCOTT FLOWER CRJ CHANT FUND

Al Gross

In memory of father, Meyer Gross

Barbara & Paul Grossman

In memory of Agie Janovitz

Linda Flower Gross & Al Gross

With respect and compassion for Peter Gold

SIDNEY R. GEIST, JR.

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND

Allison Levie

In memory of grandfather, Joseph Kessler

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

The Gassman Family
In memory of Marvin Gassman

Linda Flower Gross & Al Gross

Sneakers that Fit donation

Sharon & Ira Silver

In memory of Agie Janovitz

Jack & Dolores Titen

Sneakers that Fit donation

Dr. & Mrs. Leon Aronson

In memory of Barry Levin

Karen & Allan Burnstine

In honor of Jessica Nolte's Bat Mitzvah
In honor of Judy Godorov's nomination
as one of Kinneret's Eight Over Eighty
honorees. No one deserves it more!

Dolores Schwartz

Sneakers that Fit donation

Susan & Larry Halperin & family

In memory of Agie Janovitz

Betty & Mel Kohn

In memory of Joseph Kohn
Donation designated for Sneakers that Fit

Pam Levin, Jessica, Jared & Fiona Lazarus

Shannen & Zachary Levin
In memory of Barry Levin
In memory of Irving Levin
In memory of Phyllis Levin
In memory of Evelyn Solomonov, sister
of Ava Maxwell

Gail & Bob Gold

In memory of Agie Janovitz

Allan & Karen Burnstine

In memory of Agie Janovitz

Amy & Larry Feinberg

In honor of Pam Levin

Judy Godorov

In memory of Agie Janovitz
In honor of daughter, Susan Godorov
In honor of granddaughter Jessica
Nolte's wonderful Bat Mitzvah
In memory of parents, David & Frances
Shuman

Brian & Jennifer Hoffman

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

John & Beth Weiss

In loving memory of Agie Janovitz

Debbie Gold

In memory of Agie Janovitz

Jason & Ronni Mendelsohn

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

David Bottomley

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Daniel & Lynne Bachrach

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Beverly B. Smith

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Hali & Michael Potesman

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Betty & Mel Kohn

In memory of Freda Mae Wasserstein

Barbara & Chet Peckett

In memory of Barry Levin

Jean White

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Alma DiGloria

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Donna & Norman Abramson

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Marty & Emily Glickstein

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Judy Godorov

In memory of father, David Shuman
In memory of mother, Frances Shuman

Nancy Weber & Lee Sasser

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Steven & Sheryl Kurland

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

David & Susan Newman

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Sammy Goldstein & Bill Yahner

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Kim Leider Smith

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Lori Struletz

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Vicki Kushner

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Linda & Morton Bender

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Harriet & Jeffrey Bryan

In memory of our beloved brother, Barry
Levin

Dana Sussmann Lewis & Stuart Lewis

Designated for Sneakers that Fit

Jerry & Rosalee Bogo

In memory of Barry Levin

**STANLEY S. BLOOM SOCIAL HALL
AND KITCHEN FUND****Rosalind Levitt**

In memory of beloved mother, Fannie
Friedman

STEPHEN FEINBERG MEMORIAL FUND**James S. Milligan**

In memory of Robert S. Milligan

Sheryl & Alex Sacharoff

In memory of Agie Janovitz
In memory of Stephen Feinman, uncle of
Robin Kunkel

TORAH RESTORATION FUND**Edward Levine**

In memory of Albert Levine

YOUTH ENRICHMENT TRAVEL FUND**Helene & Gary Becker**

In honor of the marriage of Sammy
Goldstein & Bill Yahner
In memory of Lillian Becker

THE YOUTH PROGRAM APPEAL**Michael & Cookie Meyer**

In honor of Alma DiGloria's 80th birthday
In honor of the marriage of Sammy
Goldstein & Bill Yahner
In appreciation of Bobby Gold

Linda Flower Gross & Al Gross

Donation



CRJ Sisterhood Honors
Cantor Jacki with a WRJ
Lifeline Pin and the WRJ
Assembly in November.
Donations support the
WRJ YES Fund

**Mazel Tov**

Mazel Tov on the recent marriages of..

Ilissa Sampling & Michael Behr, son of **Debra & Glenn Behr**

Audrey Unger & Richard Seidman
Michele Brennan & Mitch Barnett

**Sheloshim List**

Elinor Simon, Grandmother of Stephen Kaplan

Agie Janovitz, Mother of Ilyse Katz

Stephen Feinman, Uncle of Robin Kunkel

Bella Tresser, Wife of Dr. Melvin Tresser

Morton Nagan, Uncle of Camy Schwam-Wilcox

John W. Wilcox, Father of Jeff Wilcox

Carol Katz, Friend of Paula Streimish

Michael Portnick, Father of Dr. Andrea Freedman

Suzan Shader, Sister of Donna Render

**Mah Jongg**

Call Beverly Smith, 407-461-1663 or
email: thetink@hotmail.com



Birthdays

On this special day, we wish you all the very best, all the joy you can ever have and may you be blessed abundantly today, tomorrow and the days to come! **Happy Birthday!**

JANUARY 2016

1 Ava Hull
2 Max Intro
2 Scott Richman
2 Elliot Schwartz
3 Helene Becker
3 Douglas Gerber
3 Payton Hayes
4 Lauren Kaplan
4 Lucy Scheff
4 Belinda Smith
5 Sarah Demsky
5 Carrie Miller
6 Paige Adler
6 Alyssa Anderson
6 Seth Borenstein
6 Nathaniel Goldberg
6 Bobby Hayes
6 Rachael Schott
7 Harold Kaplan
7 Natalie Salem
8 Jonathan Albert
8 Jocelyn Bluth
8 Wendy Fender
8 Kate Kaplan
8 Mitch Menaker
8 Alyssa Spector
8 Madeleine Vilmos
9 Gerard Fiacco
9 Rachel Forman
9 Stephanie Lieblich
9 Carolyn Weinstein
10 Carol Esner
10 Jessica Lieblich
10 David Weiser
11 Paul Lilling
13 Leslie Benzion
13 Joshua Fido
13 Doris Frank
13 Rosalyn Haskelson
13 Martin Kirsch
13 Antonio Tejeda
14 Claire Goodowens
14 Norman Hull
14 Jennifer Peisner
14 Emma VanDemark
15 Matthew Albert
15 Alexandra Goldman
15 Dana Kruger
15 Lane Silberstein
15 Andrew Weinstock
16 Wendy Cintron
16 Jacob Freid
16 Charlotte Hendelson
17 David Adler

17 Olivia Gordon
17 Sarah Rosenfeld
18 Judith
EchterlingHawkins
18 Jordan Friedman
18 Jennifer Gray
18 Daniel Perreault
18 Cindy WeissBlechman
19 Amanda Harper
19 Marc Mandell
19 Elena Morrison
20 Michael Harman
21 Billi Arditi
21 Opal Benson
21 William Dunbrack
21 Devi Thompson
21 Lee Zehngbot
22 Lila Gerber
22 Richard Reis
22 Frank Silverman
22 Robert Yeager
23 Sophie Kalsen
23 Madison Kerben
23 Sandra Sheiber
23 Helen Tetenbaum
24 Ali Bovis
24 Murray Brooks
24 Adam Cantor
24 Hannah Jacobson
24 Madison Jacobson
24 Austin Morrison
24 Rabbi Anne Perry
24 Renee Ross
24 Joshua Salzman
24 Charlotte Schwartz
25 Marc Auster
25 Christopher Brannan
25 Evan David Lahav
25 Stephen Reich
25 Mark Silverberg
25 Logan Sonne
27 Jose Alonso
27 Marsha Freeman
27 Bari Ruddy
28 Daniel Broussard
28 Risa Nicholson
28 Helene Rasmussen
28 Avi Selsky
28 Daniel Stein
29 Marc Morrison
30 Donna Abramson
30 Andrea Freedman
30 Barbara Steiner
31 Adam Baumgarten

FEBRUARY 2016

1 Elliot Cooperman
1 Judy Doyle
1 David Forman
1 Sydney Regenstreif
1 Elaine S. Sonne
1 Bruce Stein
2 Martin Alpert
2 Gary Baumgarten
2 Alex KaufmanLong
2 Rachel Milsom
2 Emily Sasser
3 Sean Bogle
3 Gail Chernak
3 Mikella Krieger
3 Simon Kuritzky
4 Eden Goldsmith
4 Amanda Harris
5 Stuart Lewis
5 Tony Moreno
5 Penelope Robinson
5 Kayla Steinmetz
6 Jill Cousins
6 Alexandra Defuso
6 Allana Katz
6 Jenna Richman
6 Eric Toly
7 Alex Dunbrack
7 Harry Falk
7 Joseph Galkin
7 Shyla Reich
7 Diane Sunshine
7 Nicole Sykora
8 Steven Bedell
8 Sara Freedman
8 Mason Hayes
8 Vicki Peisner
8 Deborah Schick
8 Heather Schwartzberg
8 Inca Silver
9 Coby Scanlon
9 Francie Schaffer
10 William Harper
10 Robert Kushner
10 Taylor Sanchez
10 James Wetmore
10 Nancy Wolf
11 Mary Lou Goss
11 Phillip Rosenberg
11 Donna Smargon
12 Wendy Silver
13 Danielle Freedman
13 Andrew Goldman
13 Marilyn Greenhut
13 Lexi Landa
13 Jeanne Silberstein
13 Zachary Watson
14 Joy Dreyfus
14 Samantha Goodowens
14 Aida Lublin
14 Sheryl Sacharoff
14 Roy Silberstein
15 Hannah Harman
15 Maya Milsom
15 Carli Moreno
15 Nathaniel Robinson
15 Daniel Welch

16 Heather Gurian
16 Julia Kalin
16 Heather Sauls
17 Lillian Berkowitz
17 Ava Maxwell
17 Timothy Olsson
17 Michael Schneider
17 Rachel Wheeler
18 Chris Anders
18 Philip Perreault
18 Carrie Rich
18 Maya Salem
18 Ilana Santizo
18 Brian Shams
18 Louise Sheehy
19 Michelle Auster
19 Jamie Demsky
19 Jordan Goldman
19 Debra Rosenfeld
20 Mark Defuso
20 Allison Sykora
21 Sarah Bachrach
21 Liam Goodowens
21 Marjorie Helman
21 Ethan Morris
21 Jack Rottenberg
21 Esther Wolman
22 Robin Dictor
22 Jane Gleick
22 Barry Katz
22 Ella Mendelsohn
22 Annalise Ward
22 Harriet Weiss
22 Leo Weiss
23 Louis Blumenfeld
23 Doris Wolf
23 Harrison Wolf
24 Ruby Albert
24 Alana Brenner
24 Caroline Carlton
24 Amy Dictor
24 Harold Forman
24 Isaac Robinson
24 Bernice Walker
Schwartz
26 Lily Adler
26 Rebecca Bauer
26 Benjamin Issac Begani
26 Richard Cohn
26 Delaney DeAguilera
26 Jonathan Friedman
26 Ken Mickenberg
26 Adam Wershil
27 Elliot Albert
27 Matt Gordon
27 Justice Milsom
27 Brandon Mintzer
27 Lee Seltzer
27 Beth Weiss
28 Marshall Adler
28 Max Amon
28 Max Anders
28 Alexander Bisbee
28 Mark Kaplan
28 Hannah Martin



Anniversaries

Joining with you in celebrating another year in love. **Happy Anniversary!**

JANUARY 2016

1 Jason & Alicia Silver
1 Floyd Sykora & Valerie Feldman
1 Scott & Meredith Zornek
3 Whit & Tracey Watson
4 Donald VanDemark, Jr. & Rachel VanDemark
6 Howard & Carole Levene
6 Bill & Bev Murphy
8 Ben Robinson & Debra Rosenbluth
9 Rich & Heather Fleming
10 Mitchell & Marsha Stein
12 Stephen & Dorey Wolf
14 Ormer & Monique Eyal
14 Steven & Renee Perelmutter
15 Judy & Emery Rosenbluth, Jr.
15 Cliff & Rivka Selsky
16 Gary & Barbara Borenstein
17 Luis Flores & Jeannette Leon Yanez
19 Wayne & Lynn Dictor
24 Jerry & Trudy Weiss
26 Stephen & Shyla Reich
31 Stephen & Arlene Guss

FEBRUARY 2016

2 Stan & Judy Becker
2 Amy Scotland & Vanessa Scotland
3 Andrew & Brooke Kuritzky
12 Michael & Susan Harman
14 Lee Sasser & Nancy Weber
17 Chris & Julie Begani
17 Alan & Marcia Berman
18 Murray & Bonnie Toborowsky
21 Tyson & Gina Fiore
21 David & Debbi Pariser
24 Mark & Lois Silverberg
25 Mark & MaryAnn Kaplan
27 John & Shayna Reich

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed please contact us so we can celebrate with you! Send information to: **Julie Begani** at jbegani@crjorlando.org



Welcome
New Member
Amanda Harris



**Get your PUBLIX
GIFT CARD
at CRJ
contact
Michael Kancher
for
details**

Congratulations to our members on their honors and accomplishments!

Kinneret Council on Aging's (KCOA) named CRJ's beloved **Judy Godorov** as one of its 8 over 80. Yearly, KCOA recognizes eight community members over the age of eighty who make their mark through philanthropy and volunteerism. Judy will be formally honored at a dinner on Sunday, February 28th at Kinneret Apartments. All who know Judy and see the many ways in which she gives back to our synagogue agree that this is a most-deserved recognition.

The Jewish Academy of Orlando's (JAO) annual gala, A Starry Night, honored our own stars, **Donna and Barry Render**. While their sons, Charlie and Jesse, attended the JAO from kindergarten through eighth grade, Donna and Barry served on the JAO board in a variety of positions. They made a lasting impact on the school's fundraising efforts, and for years to come, Orlando's Jewish youth will benefit from the Renders' dedication.

Dori Gerber, CRJ's own Vice President of Education and Youth Programming, was just voted Bear Lake Elementary School's Teacher of the Year. Dori started her teaching career ten years ago at Donna Klein Jewish Academy in Boca Raton. After ten years at Orlando's Jewish Academy of Orlando, Dori moved to Seminole County's Bear Lake, and, after just two years there, her peers voted her Teacher of the Year. Next, Dori will compete at the county level. Good luck, Dori!

Stephanie Lieblich, daughter of **Cathy and Mark Lieblich**, graduated from the University of Florida two years ago with a bachelor's degree in Advertising. Recently, she decided to leave behind her desk jobs and pursue her passion as a hair stylist and make-up artist. She has now graduated from Paul Mitchell - The School in November and soon will be working at On-Site Hair Studio Salon in College Park after she obtains her cosmetology license.

Our synagogue is home to many award-winning young thespians. At Florida Thespians' District Three competition, **Alex Goldman**, the daughter of **Lisa and David Goldman**, representing Lake Mary Preparatory School, earned a Superior for her Monologue as well as a trophy for All-Star Cast. **Maya Milsom**, daughter of **Rachel and Justice Milsom**, received a Critic's Choice award as part of Lyman High School's presentation of the One Act Play Elephant's Graveyard. She and her costars will be presenting at the Orlando International Fringe Theater Festival. Representing Trinity Preparatory School, **Tony Moreno**, son of **Karen and Tony Moreno**, was awarded "Best in Show" for his musical solo. In the District Five competition, **Zac Croft**, a son of **Sheri Croft**, also earned a Superior for his monologue. With Zac as a dancer, director, actor, stage manager, and technician, his drama troop from West Orange High School earned a Superior for its performance in a Large Group Musical and took "Best in Show" for their original One Act Play, The Forgotten Ones.

Liam and Claire Goodowens, the children of **Samantha and Jason Goodowens**, launched their community project, The Game Exchange, with the support of a Vision Winter Park grant and Cool Stuff Games. Operated like Little Free Libraries, Game

Exchange Boxes provide free board games for the community to share. To date, three local boxes are installed in Winter Park, and Liam and Claire invite you to learn more at their web site: www.gameexchangebox.org

PBS featured **Georgia Bernbaum**, the daughter of **Elizabeth and Lee Bernbaum**, during their national American Graduate Day programming. Alongside people and organizations from across the country, Georgia and The Dance Happy Project were honored for creating an initiative which helps students stay in school until high school graduation.

Bethanne Weiss just released her first book, Move Your Assets: From the chair, not the bank! The book promises to inspire you with humor, science, and a little bit of Yiddish to help you become fit and healthy. She does all this without mentioning the words diet, workout, or exercise. In fact, Bethanne promises not to ask you to put shrubs and twigs into a blender and call it a meal. Just ask some of our synagogue members who are profiled in her book: her husband, Jeffrey Weiss, Lisa Goldman, Cindy Weiss, and Rabbi Engel.

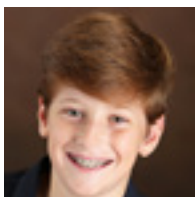
Did you know that two of our congregants are local leaders in gluten-free living? Over the past six years, both **Irina Blumenfeld** and **Lisa Goldman** discovered that their daughters have Celiac Disease. In Irina's case, she, too, has Celiac Disease, a condition which can be passed genetically and is often found in the Ashkenazic Jewish population. Both moms had to learn how to restructure their families' lifestyles to ensure that they all remained healthy. They generously and warmly share their experiences on their websites and blogs. With their help, gluten-free living is easier and more delicious than you would have imagined. Check out Irina's site for reviews of restaurants to diners who are gluten-free, <http://www.glutenfreefromorlando.com>, and Lisa's Gluten-Free Jewish Mama site, <https://gfjmomma.wordpress.com>, to learn more about her advocacy.

Finally, let's congratulate **Jason Mendelsohn** for his success in raising awareness for Oral Cancer. Jason was diagnosed last year with Stage 4 tonsil cancer. After undergoing surgery and treatment, he has worked to educate others about oral cancer, a cancer which can be caused by the human papilloma virus and grow undetected for decades. He trained for just two months before he rode 130 miles in The Ride to Conquer Cancer in Washington, DC, raising almost \$25,000 for DC-area hospitals along the way. Add the more than sixty miles he just completed for Orlando's Cycle the City raising money for Florida Hospital to help fight childhood obesity and the miles he will ride in March for the American Diabetes Association's Tour de Cure and Jason will have cycled over 200 miles in support of good health.

With such a vibrant and diverse congregation, there must be more stories to tell. Please email your good news to elizabethbernbaum@hotmail.com



B'nai Mitzvah



Maxwell Isaac Goldberg, son of Paul and Rebecca Goldberg will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 9, 2016. Maxwell is currently a seventh grade honors student at Lake Mary Preparatory School and a former elementary student at the Jewish Academy of Orlando. In addition to his studies, Maxwell is an avid ice hockey player. His passion for hockey began when he was seven years old. Over the years, he has played hockey in two countries and five states. At this time, Maxwell plays offense for The Vipers, a traveling team out of Kissimmee. Maxwell is a funny, caring individual who enjoys new adventures and traveling. He has worked very hard to prepare for his bar mitzvah and is excited and grateful to be sharing his special day with his family and friends.



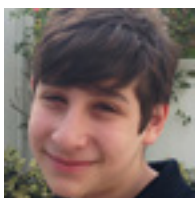
Andrew Bachrach, son of Lynne and Dan Bachrach, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 23, 2016. Andrew is in seventh grade at Trinity Preparatory School where he especially enjoys History and Science classes, and hanging out with friends. He stays busy after school swimming on the swim team. At home, he is a voracious reader, sports spectator, and loves playing guitar for his dog, Pancho. Andrew is a kind and caring young man, and is excited and grateful to be sharing this special day with his friends and family.



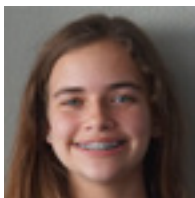
Natalie Salem, daughter of Tracey and Robert Salem, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on January 30, 2016. Natalie is in seventh grade at Rock Lake Middle school where she is on the honor roll in advanced classes. She is a funny and athletic girl that participates in both karate and basketball after school. Natalie also enjoys playing music. She currently plays the saxophone and trombone for her school band. We are very proud of Natalie and the person she is. She is excited to share this day with family and friends.



Mitchell Dyen, son of Anissa and Scott Dyen and younger brother of **Avery and Spencer**, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah, on Saturday, February 6, 2016. He is a 7th grader at Maitland Middle school. He is in the gifted program and a gold level member of the Golden Hawks club an organization that celebrates and rewards students for high achievement in academics. Mitchell plays trombone in Wind Ensemble and 1 O'clock Jazz Band. Mitchell plays Bridge competitively with the American Contract Bridge League and attends national tournaments each summer. He enjoys playing board games, cooking, reading, learning about new technology and likes to play with his Labradoodle named Marti. For his Mitzvah project Mitchell volunteered at the Second Harvest Food Bank. He enjoyed giving back to his community and learning more about how he can help get rid of world hunger.



Adam Zachary Maulfair, son of Melanie and Mitch Maulfair, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah, on Saturday, February 6, 2016. Adam is in 7th grade at Maitland Middle School, where he is an Honor Roll student and plays several instruments in Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band. Outside of school, Adam also plays the piano and is active in his Boy Scout troop. At home, he likes to spend time with his cats, play computer games, and hang out with his brothers and his friends. For Adam's Mitzvah project, he decided to raise money to purchase new bows for some of the instruments in his school's orchestra - he has held bake sales, and has made over \$300 dollars so far, and hopes to continue this project as the school year continues. Adam is looking forward to celebrating his Bar Mitzvah with all of his family and friends!



Jenna Richman, daughter of Gwen and Scott Richman and sister of Evan and Jaret, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on February 20, 2016. Jenna is in seventh grade at Gotha Middle School where she plays the cello in the school orchestra. She is an honor student and member of the National Junior Honor Society. When she is not in school Jenna takes dance and plays volleyball. She has also been an active Girl Scout since first grade and is currently working towards her Silver Award. Jenna is excited to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah with all her friends and family here in town, as well as her family traveling in from throughout Florida, the US and Israel.



Colby London Wiener, son of Eric Wiener and Trecia Wiener-Long, will be called to the Torah February 27, 2016. Colby is a seventh grade student at Trinity Prep School where he is on the honor roll. Colby runs cross country and is the starting point guard for his seventh grade school basketball team. When he is not studying or playing basketball, Colby enjoys spending time with his friends and family. For his mitzvah project, Colby made care bags filled with non perishable food items, water and \$5.00, to keep in the car and hand out to those less fortunate who ask for help at various intersections around town. Colby has a big heart and is sensitive to the needs of others. Colby is very excited to celebrate his upcoming bar mitzvah with his friends and family.



Tu BiSh'vat

Tu BiSh'vat or the "New Year of the Trees" is Jewish Arbor Day. The holiday is observed on the 15th (*tu*) of the Hebrew month of Sh'vat. Scholars believe that originally Tu BiSh'vat was an agricultural festival, marking the emergence of spring. In the 17th century, Kabbalists created a ritual for Tu BiSh'vat that is similar to a Passover seder. Today, many Jews hold a modern version of the Tu BiSh'vat seder each year.

Modern-day Jews celebrate Tu BiSh'vat by expressing joy and thankfulness for trees, harvests, and the natural world. Many Jews plant trees at home and in Israel, and eat delicious fruits and greens in celebration of this "New Year of the Trees." During this agricultural festival, Jews around the world consider our obligation to care for the environment and our sacred responsibility to share the fruits of God's earth with all.

You can incorporate social justice themes into your Tu BiSh'vat celebration in the following ways.

Host a Tu BiSh'vat Social Action Seder

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Get Back to Nature

Prepare an Organic Oneg

See more at: <http://www.reformjudaism.org/tu-bishvat-social-justice-guide#sthash.W1eAV1aA.dpuf>

Family Projects for Tu BiSh'vat

<https://www.pinterest.com/ahappymamabear/celebrate-tu-b-shevat/>

Etz Chai Hi (Tree of Life) by Richard Silverman

Shalom (8x)

Eitz-chayim hi lama--chazikim bah V'tom'che-ha m'ushar (2x)

It is a tree of life to those Who hold fast to it And all of its supporters are happy! (2x)

Its ways are ways of pleasantness And all its paths are peace.

Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEJXeJx4-w0>



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Julie Begani, jbegani@crjorlando.org

Brotherhood:

David Armbrust, brotherhood@crjorlando.org

Chant Circle:

Linda Flower Gross, crjchant@gmail.com

Gift Shop:

Ellen Snyder, giftshop@crjorlando.org

GORFTY:

Stephen Wolf, gorfty@crjorlando.org

Invitations:

Pam Cantor, giftshop@crjorlando.org

Leadership Development:

Nancy Walk, hmdaughter@aol.com

OAFY:

Rebecca Blechman, oafty@crjorlando.org

Seniors:

Dr. Allan Myers, allanmyersdmd@gmail.com

Sisterhood:

Carolyn Weinstein, carolynLW66@aol.com

Volunteers:

Cathy Lieblich, clieblich@me.com

To receive **EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS** of events at CRJ, contact program director, **407-645-0444** or jbegani@crjorlando.org

January 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 6pm Shabbat Service | 2 10am Shabbat Service |
| 3 No School | 4 10:30am: Wise Aging | 5 6pm Mah Jongg | 6 4pm School of Chai 7pm Rosh Chodesh Group | 7 11am Sr. Board 7pm "What do the Rabbis' Say?" 7pm Interfaith Couples Group | 8 7pm Shabbat Service | 9 Bar Mitzvah of Maxwell Goldberg 10am Shabbat Service |
| 10 9:30am School of Chai 5th Grade Mishpacha Day 1pm #SeediaJewishly | 11 10:30am: Wise Aging 6:30pm Hebrew II | 12 5:30pm Sisterhood Mtg | 13 4pm School of Chai 7pm Board of Directors Mtg. | 14 7pm "What do the Rabbis' Say?" 7pm ABM | 15 7pm Shabbat Service | 16 Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Nemeroff 10am Shabbat Service 10am Shabbat Yoga |
| 17 No School | 18 MLK Day CRJ Office Closed 9:30am Cooking for the Homeless 5:45pm Serving the homeless 7pm Nosh of Judaism | 19 12:30pm Book Club 6pm Mah Jongg | 20 12pm Torah Study 4pm School of Chai School Tu B'Shvat Seder | 21 12pm Seniors Program (BINGO) 7pm ABM | 22 6pm Shabbat Service Shabbat Shirah featuring Yuval Ron Ensemble | 23 Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Bachrach 10am Shabbat Service |
| 24 9:30am School of Chai 9:30am Game Night mtg 1pm: YES Fund Luncheon 1pm: YEP | 25 Tu B'shvat 10:30am: Wise Aging 6:30pm Hebrew II 7pm Nosh of Judaism | 26 | 27 12pm Torah Study 4pm School of Chai 7pm Leadership Development Program Council | 28 7pm "What do the Rabbis' Say?" 7pm ABM | 29 6pm Shabbat Service | 30 Bat Mitzvah of Natalie Salem 10am Shabbat Service |
| 31 9:30am School of Chai 10am New Member Brunch 11am: CRJ Chavurah | | | | | | |

Join us for Shabbat Yoga
January 16, March 26, and May 7 at
10:00am

Yoga/Yuj means "union" or "yoke", to join together with ourselves and others. Let's come together for a relaxing, healing yoga practice aligning body and breath and steeped in two traditions. Meditation and discussion to follow.

This Hatha Yoga Class will focus on breathing and creating space within ourselves for something new. We will explore gentle movement linked with breath interspersed with some more optional challenging poses that can be modified. Yoga is a non-competitive practice and all levels are welcome to participate. Mats will be provided.

"Yoga has less to do with what you can do with your body and more to do with the happiness that unfolds from realizing your full potential" If you would like more information about the Shabbat Yoga Experience at CRJ, please contact Cantor Jacki at jrawiszer@crjorlando.org.



February 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| | 1 6:30pm Hebrew II 7pm Nosh of Judaism | 2 6pm Mah Jongg | 3 12pm Torah Study 4pm School of Chai | 4 11am Sr. Board 7pm ABM 7pm Exploring Shabbat Class | 5 5:30pm Tot Shabbat 7pm Shabbat Service | 6 B'nai Mitzvah of Adam Maufair and Mitchell Dyen 10am Shabbat Service |
| 7 9:30am School of Chai 9:30am Chant Circle 9:45am Jews in America 1:15pm Rosh Chodesh | 8 6:30pm Hebrew II 7pm Nosh of Judaism | 9 5:30pm Sisterhood Mtg. | 10 4pm School of Chai 7pm Board of Directors Mtg. | 11 7pm ABM 7pm Exploring Shabbat Class | 12 7pm Shabbat Service | 13 10am Shabbat Service |
| 14 No School | 15 President's Day 9:30am Cooking for the Homeless 5:45pm Serving the homeless | 16 Sisterhood—All Fired Up | 17 12pm Torah Study 4pm School of Chai | 18 12pm Seniors Program (Cantor Jacki) 7pm ABM 7pm Exploring Shabbat | 19 7pm Shabbat Service | 20 Bat Mitzvah of Jenna Richman 10am Shabbat Service |
| 21 9:30am School of Chai 9:45am Jews in America 12pm Fashion Show 1pm YEP | 22 6:30pm Hebrew II 7pm Nosh of Judaism | 23 | 24 4pm School of Chai | 25 7pm "What do the Rabbis' Say?" 7pm ABM 7pm Exploring Shabbat Class | 26 6pm Shabbat Service Kindergarten Consecration | 27 Bar Mitzvah of Colby Wiener 10am Shabbat Service |
| 28 9:30am School of Chai 2nd Grade Mishpacha Day 9:45am Jews in America | 29 6:30pm Hebrew II 7pm Nosh of Judaism | | | | | |

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Planning an event or hosting a dinner party?

Please call on these amazing caterer's who will come to
your home or venue. These wonderful vendors donated
their time and all the fabulous food for the CRJ Gala in
February, please help us say thank you!



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The mission of the Congregation of Reform Judaism is to offer a synagogue culture that is inviting and respectful, with inspiring worship services and programs that promote lifelong Jewish learning, within a caring, innovative and vibrant congregation.

Todah Rabah

Thank You to all our volunteers who helped to make and deliver 461 meals to seniors in our community on Christmas day. Special thanks to the Yarmuth family for generously donating the food.



Christmas Day Meals



SUPPORT YOUR CONGREGATION



Tree of Life Engraved Leaves \$250 each

Engraved Bricks Bricks are located under the overhang by the front doors - \$118 each

Memorial Plaques

In the Sanctuary - \$650 for one/ \$1,000 for two

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor an Oneg after a Shabbat service- \$250 donation

Chai Sponsorship Cost includes printing & mailing \$550 bi-monthly- six issues per year

CRJ Cemetery

Have you thought about pre-planning? Cemetery plots are available in the CRJ Cemetery at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Gotha, Florida

For more information, please contact **Michael Kancher** at 407-645-0444 or visit www.crjorlando.org