



Shalom Baby

We hope to welcome each new Jewish baby into our community with a very special gift bag filled with resource materials for Mom and Dad and a personalized Judaica gift for the baby. This brochure includes some of the information contained in the gift bag.



Our first Shalom baby, Evan Vogel

Special Thanks to our current sponsors of the Shalom Baby Project:

Bonnie and Gary Cooper (Apples and Honey Publication)
Bob and Connie Stern (Baby Books)
Simon Weiss-purchase grant for supplies from Amway (diapers, etc)
Ed and Joanne Block

Mazel Tov to You and your New Baby!



Directory of Gainesville Jewish Organizations



B'nai B'rith is the oldest and largest Jewish civic and social organization in the world. Founded in 1843, B'nai B'rith created the Anti-Defamation League, Hillel Foundations, and the B'nai B'rith Youth Organizations-AZA and BBG. The Gainesville chapter was founded as a lodge (men only) in the 1930's and its presidents include a list of our community's Jewish leaders for the past 50 years. In 1998, the lodge converted to a unit and now welcomes as members both men and women of the Jewish Faith. B'nai B'rith meets 2 or 3 times a year, usually on a Sunday morning. For more information, contact either Howard Rosenblatt, president, at 378-7771 or Dr. David Pawliger, secretary/treasurer at 331-7340.



The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at the University of Florida has worked with the campus-based Jewish community in Gainesville since 1939. They offer social, cultural, educational, and religious programs for the 6,000 Jewish students who call UF home. Among their major programs are: the Ruach Chaim Institute/Jewish Spirituality Series, films and speakers, Israel Birthright trips, Jewish Awareness Month (March) co-sponsored with the Jewish Student Union, as well as Shabbat and holiday services, events, and programming. They are located at 16 NW 18th St. (one block north of University Ave.) 372-2900. Their web site is hillel@gnv.fdt.net. Their campus Director is Rabbi Andy Koren.



The Center for Jewish Studies promotes and coordinates academic study and teaching in the field of Jewish Studies at the University of Florida. This mission is accomplished primarily by (1) offering an undergraduate major and minor in Jewish Studies; (2) sponsoring an annual series of public talks, workshops, and presentations by

distinguished visiting scholars; and (3) promoting and monitoring Study Abroad programs for Israeli universities. the Center is supported by the invaluable collection of books and material in the Price Library of Judaic. The center's office is at 105 Walker Hall at the University of Florida. (352) 392-9247. Their web site is center@jst.ufl.edu.



Congregation B'nai Israel is a conservative synagogue affiliated with the United Synagogue of America. Both men and women are counted in their minyan and participate fully in services. The congregation offers opportunities for worship, education, community service, and social activities that will enrich you and your family's lives. The members support the programs of B'nai Israel by working together to create ideas for new activities, volunteering their time and making financial commitment through dues, contributions, and fund raising. By sharing and participating in these activities, they have deepened their commitment to Jewish tradition. The facilities include a beautiful sanctuary, an award winning library, a social hall with kosher kitchen, classrooms for religious and day school, a playground and a Sisterhood gift shop. There are local facilities for a Jewish funeral and members are allowed burial in the local Jewish cemetery. They are located at 3830 N.W. 16th Blvd. Gainesville, FL 32605-3552. (352) 376-1508. Their web site is at <http://uscj.org/soeast/gvillebnai>.

B'nai Israel Sisterhood is an organization of women dedicated to supporting B'nai Israel with a particular emphasis on its schools and youth groups. In addition to providing supplementary funding for the children it provides a service to the Jewish Community through its gift shop. Other activities include the annual Hamentaschen Bake and the Purim Carnival Bake Sale. Some of the educational programs involve speaking about the Holocaust at the various public schools around Alachua County. Contact President Barbara Herbstman at 380-9116 for more info.

B'nai Israel Men's Club is a service organization dedicated to the needs

of the congregation and to the Jewish community. It provides a vehicle for men to share their time and religious interests, while performing mitzvot for the community. Major fund raising activities include the construction and sale of sukkot, the sale of lulav and etrog, and the distribution of candles to remember the Holocaust. Contact president Norman Levy at 332-4000 for more info.

Day School promotes and enhances Jewish education to achieve excellence in Judaic and secular studies. School Director is Dr. Kay Gonsoulin. Office (352) 374-8740. Call for program days and times.

Friendship Circle is a meeting of any interested “older adults” every Wednesday from 10:00a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Jewish Newcomers is an organization providing a welcoming atmosphere to newcomers to the Jewish community and an opportunity to meet other Jews.

Religious School has three levels of age groups: Kindergarten through 2nd Grade which meets Sundays 9:00am-noon. Grades 3-7 meets on Tuesdays 4:00pm-6:00pm & Sundays 9:00am to noon, and Judaica High School meets on Sundays 9:00am-noon. Religious School Director is Malka Dagan (352) 374-8740.

Shabbat morning programs for Young People include Junior Congregation which includes Grades 5-7, K'ton ton which includes Grades Kindergarten-4th, and Tot Shabbat which includes age 2 to pre-school. Families can also attend Shabbat services with their young children at special abbreviated services conducted the first Friday of every month from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Tot Shabbat, K'ton ton and Junior Congregation join the main service on Shabbat morning at its conclusion to lead the closing prayers.

Young at Heart are mature adults who meet the third Sunday of each month.

Youth Groups for B'nai Israel include memberships to Chalutzim, Kadima, and USY. Chalutzim is open to grades 3-5. Kadima is open to Grades 6-8, and USY, or United Synagogue Youth, is open to Grades 9-12.



Jewish Council of North Central Florida (formally Gainesville Jewish Appeal) is the central fund raising and programming organization for the Jewish Community. From the proceeds of its annual campaign, it contributes to the needs of world Jewry, provides grants to local, regional, and national Jewish Organizations; sponsors programs and services for Jewry in North Central Florida, such as the **Jewish Community Center Without Walls, and the Maimonides Society**. They also publish a monthly newspaper, The Chronicle. Visit their website at www.jcncf.org. Their address is P.O. Box 14937, Gainesville, 32604-4937. (352) 371-3846.



Jewish Community Center Without Walls offers several different programs and lists their monthly events in The Chronicle. Their current programs include the following:

Family Fun Time are activities for families with children elementary age and younger. In December they presented the Chanukah Factory with the Lubavitch Jewish Center.

Jewish Professionals is a group to meet, connect and socialize with others in the community.

Jewish Teens are activities designed to bring together middle and high school youth in Gainesville.

Klezmer Kapelye is a Jewish instrumental dance music jam session.

Ladies Night Out is a social group for women.

Mah jong meets twice a month to play Mah Jong games. First timers and pros welcome.

Mommie and Me playgroups include playgroups for children ages 0 to 18 months, which meet every Monday at rotating houses, and a playgroup for 18 months to 3 years old and their parents, which meets twice a month.

Gainesville Yiddish Vinkl is a class to learn Yiddish and then some! Contact Debby Kinman-Ford, Program Director at 373-1806 or e-mail at teachingdreams@aol.com.



The Maimonides Society is a society of Jewish Healthcare Professionals, and others from the community who seek to strengthen the bond among themselves, Israel and the Community through philanthropic, social action, and educational initiatives. Through their various programs and projects, they seek to enhance the quality of life for members of the community, and address some of the physical, emotional, spiritual and social needs of our seniors, disabled, chronically ill, and their families.

The Volunteer-Outreach Program provides personal services, such as respite care, companionship, reading, letter writing, check writing, grocery shopping/delivery, transportation, hospital visitation, to those in need of these services.

The Shabbat Dinner Program provides rituals such as candle lighting, kiddush and hamotzi, along with a Shabbat meal, to our seniors residing in retirement complexes, assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

The Care-givers Support Group meets the second Wed. of each month to provide support, information, encouragement, and solutions to problems associated with caring for a loved one.

The Holiday Basket Project provides gift bags with appropriate Holiday items to our seniors in residential sites for Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah, Purim, and Passover.

Educational Seminars/Socials allows us to bring interesting and timely topics, related to health and wellness, from a Jewish perspective, to the general membership.

Shalom Baby is our most recent addition to our programs. With this project, we hope to welcome new Jewish babies into the community with a very special gift bag filled with resource materials for Mom and Dad and a gift for the baby.

Membership: The Society has three categories of membership: **Full Membership** is available to all health care professionals, with dues being a minimum of \$36.00 a year. **Associate Membership** is available to other interested community members, with dues being a minimum of \$18.00 a year and **Student Membership** is available to students at no charge. Though volunteerism is very much encouraged and appreciated, it is not required for membership. (Membership form is included in this packet). Contact Harriett Pawliger, Coordinator of Community Services at (352) 331-7648 for more information.



Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is a volunteer women's organization, whose members are motivated and inspired to strengthen their partnership with Israel, ensure Jewish continuity, and realize their potential as a dynamic force in American society. In Israel, Hadassah initiates and supports health care, youth, education, and land development programs to meet the country's changing needs. In the United States, Hadassah enhances the quality of American and Jewish life through its education and Zionist youth programs, promotes health awareness, and provides personal enrichment and growth for its members. Each year the Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah participates in a national Mitzvah Project for Mitzvah Day on December 5th. This year they extended their project to the St. Francis House and Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network here in Gainesville. A donation drive was done to help deliver goods such as linens, clothes, personal hygiene items, household items, and

gift certificates to the homeless population and victims of spousal abuse. Contact president Dorothy Melker at 373-9134.

The Lubavitch Jewish Center, located at 3401 N.W. 7th Place, Gainesville, offers programs for families as well as Shabbat Services. Contact Rabbi Berl and Chanie Goldman at 336-5877 for more information on times and dates of programs or see The Chronicle for additional listings of events.



P'nai Or is part of the movement for the Jewish Renewal. Providing a path for spiritual growth is necessary for our inner healing and *tikkun olam*, or repairing the world. Contact Rabbi Sheldon Isenberg at 331-5672 for more information.



Temple Shir Shalom is the home for Reform Judaism in Gainesville. With a community of caring Jews in a progressive tradition, Shabbat Services are held every Friday night at 8:00pm, with Rabbi Dr. Earl Jordan officiating. Guests are always welcome. Most congregates wear business-like attire, and Oneg Shabbat is served afterwards. The temple offers many programs and benefits for members and the community, from religious school and adult education to social events and service projects. The Religious school meets approximately thirty Sundays per school year under Director Toby Hunter. She is a professional educator who provides a quality religious background while still maintaining a well-rounded and holistic experience to the education of their students. Family membership in the Temple is required as the school experience is an integral part of temple life. Hours for religious school are 9:00am to noon with the seventh graders spending an additional half an hour. Their address is 3855 N.W. 8th Ave. in Gainesville. Call (352) 371-6399 or check out the web site at www.shirshalom.net for more detailed information.