



# Women's Philanthropy

*"What we do for ourselves dies with us.  
What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal." - Albert Pike*

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## President's Message From Tammy Woldenberg

I couldn't find an inspiring quote about February to kick off this newsletter. Instead, I found that it is one of the most disliked months of the year – referred to as the month of the doldrums. Maybe it's because in most places, February is the dead of winter. For those of us blessed to live in Florida and blessed to be a part of our Women's Philanthropy and our Federation in general, this month was exceptional! Wow!

The highlight was last week's Main Event which certainly did not disappoint! Daniel Lewis received the 2023 Friend of Israel Humanitarian award which was well deserved. It was both moving and motivating to hear about how he came to be such a force despite his humble beginnings and why he chooses to be a philanthropist in our community. I turned to my husband as he was receiving his standing ovation and said, "We have a lot left to do." And that's what the event was all about, being inspired!

No less inspiring was guest speaker Naftali Bennett, the 13<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Israel, who discussed everything from Israeli politics to antisemitism to the nuclear deal with Iran. He explained how his government was able to accomplish so much in such a short amount of time due to their collaborative approach. Whether you agree with his politics or not, you can't help but to be impressed by his charm, intelligence and willingness to make things better. His message was clear: We must come together as Jews and stand up for what is right ALWAYS!

I learned of an interesting behind-the-scenes interaction that took place that night between Prime Minister Bennett and Elaine Bloom. When she took a picture with him, he noticed that it said Hon. On her name tag and asked what that meant. She explained it was for honorable and that she served as the first female member of the Florida legislature. At the end of the night when he saw her again (mind you there were over 900 people in attendance) he looked at her and said, "the first kosher member of the legislature" remembering exactly who she was. Elaine got a kick out of that and described him as a "super genius." It so happens that Elaine is featured spotlight woman this month. She is a formidable and remarkable force of nature. Be sure to read more about her below.

Maybe formidable is a characteristic in our DNA. Another such woman dates way back. We recently enjoyed a truly enlightening class about Queen Esther by Rabbi Laila Hass in our Women of Wisdom Series. Through selected excerpts from the *Megillah* hidden layers of Esther's character and the story of *Purim* were revealed in a new way. Don't miss the next eye-opening class.

February is definitely not nondescript. We also had our Salon Series book club meeting, our Art of Philanthropy event at the Mindy Solomon Gallery and a *mitzvah* volunteer opportunity at the Miami Beach JCC.

This has actually been one of my favorite months since I became President of WP. I look forward to a spring full of even more opportunities and exciting programming.

To register for upcoming events, please see links below.

## Campaign Update

We are happy to report the following:

- The **2022** General Campaign has raised \$24.3 million from more than 6,500 donors with a card-for-card increase of 12.93 percent.
- The Women's Campaign has raised \$7.4 million from more than 3,400 donors with a card-for-card increase of 13.29 percent.
- The **2023** General Campaign has raised \$8.4 million from more than 2,000 donors with a card-for-card increase of 8.51 percent.
- The Women's Campaign has raised \$3.7 million from more than 1,200 donors with a card-for-card increase of 20.44 percent.

Please reach out to donors for the 2023 campaign. Thank you for all your help in making this campaign one of our most successful at a time when our local and global Jewish communities really need all of us. With your continued support our 2023 campaign will exceed all of our expectations.

## WP Board Meeting & Tu B'Shevat Seder

In an effort to make our Board meetings both interactive and inspirational, our recent Board meeting included a Tu B'Shevat Seder. Led by Rebbetzin Deena Hadar, we celebrated the New Year of the trees and learned that sometimes it is precisely from within the darkest and coldest moments of our lives that the new blossoms burst forth. Although Tu B'Shevat is smack in the middle of winter, it marks a turning point, a time when under all that cold and snow, the sap of the trees is rising, readying for spring. So, too, must we ready ourselves in much the same way.

The Board members enjoyed wine and a delicious array of nuts and fruit as they connected to the significance of the holiday. The business portion of the meeting included the results and success of The Women's Event, updates on the 2023 Campaign and updates by various committee chairs on past and upcoming activities.



## Women of Wisdom Learning Series

In the second of the learning series examining powerful women in our tradition, Rabbi Laila Hass invited the participants to look at Queen Esther, the heroine of the *Purim* story, with fresh eyes, since most of us only know the story from our childhood. Through art renderings and a close reading of part of the ancient biblical text, a richer, deeper narrative was revealed. As layers of meaning were gradually uncovered, Esther's hidden story came alive in a vibrant and unexpected way, offering a fascinating encounter with the queen and Mordechai we thought we knew, but rediscovered.

## Experiences to Live Our Values

Young moms gathered at the Miami Beach JCC to get a closer look at the impact of Federation. They heard from a few of our local agencies and learned what is happening in the world of Jewish education from Rabbi Efrat Zarren-Zohar, executive director of CAJE and Amanda Burns, director of the PJ library. They also toured the Miami Beach JCC with Karen Sepsenwol, Development Director of the Miami Beach JCC. In addition, they participated in a *mitzvah* project from the Jewish Volunteer Center and packaged *Mishloach Manot* (*Purim* treats) for families in need to be distributed by the JCS Kosher Food Bank. The group enjoyed connecting, meeting each other, being inspired and informed about Federation's role in our community.



## Art of Philanthropy

The Art of Philanthropy series continued, this time at the Mindy Solomon Gallery. Owner and curator Mindy explained the artwork of artist Melanie Daniel (now living in Israel) to the guests. She also shared background information about the other artists currently on display and the common theme among all three around "fitting in." She related it back to our own narrative as Jews, women, etc. Mindy is a longtime Lion of Judah level donor and community activist. She has dedicated her life to the visual arts as an educator, advocate and collector.



## The Women of Our Community

### Spotlight on Elaine Bloom



#### How did you become involved with Federation?

My late husband (Phillip) and I moved to Miami in 1962 from Riverdale in New York City after much coaxing by our dearest friends. Philip had been hired by the law firm of Myers, Heiman & Kaplan (as in Stanley Myers, first President of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation) so we were immediately "involved." By 1965, the Women's Division as it was known then, decided to create a "No Minimum Division Luncheon" held at the Dupont Plaza Hotel. I was asked to bring a few people and I literally knocked on doors of young women I barely knew. With about 6 or 7 tables, I was treated as a "leader" and seated at the dais (I was 27 at the time)! Shortly after that, leaders of the "Women's Division," created a "Young Women's Division" and I was involved in developing it further. At the same time, I was moving up the ranks of the Greater Miami Section of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), becoming Section President and serving on the National Board. That is how I became so involved in the issues of state legislation - which ultimately led to my service in the Florida House of Representatives (as only the 16<sup>th</sup> woman ever sworn into that body).

#### Why is your involvement important to you?

My involvement in the GMJF has been very important to me for well over 55 years. In 1972, I was privileged to be recognized by Federation as a Young Leadership awardee (now called the Stanley C. Myers award). It was a natural fulfillment of my family background! I grew up in a "Conserva-dox" Jewish home. My mother (who spoke 5 languages when she arrived in the US in 1922 at the age of 15) was a Hadassah leader and President, a Sisterhood leader and a League of Women Voters leader. So much for being a stay-at-home mom. She was also involved with NY City's Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. My parents were ardent Zionists - and support for Israel was of major concern for both. My father (a jeweler and watchmaker who arrived in the US at 17 in 1920) was an active Labor Zionist. Dinner-time conversation involved my brother and me in daily discussion of things Israel and political. My father read the Yiddish newspaper "*Der Tag*" (the Day) and the NY Times every day. We knew what was really happening in the world!

#### What is a philanthropic accomplishment of yours that you are most proud of?

It's been my privilege to serve as a lay leader in many wonderful Jewish community organizations (mostly local with a few national leadership roles as well). I've also worked professionally at the state and national level for several wonderful Jewish organizations. I've been a donor at a leadership level in many of these organizations - the following stands out as I look back:

- Becoming a Forever Lion of Judah!
- Putting my parents' names on an office in Bar Ilan University's Law School in Israel
- Being a Life Member of NCJW and several other major Jewish organizations
- Putting up plaques in the Jewish Museum of Florida and in Temple EmanuEl in memory of my beloved husband Philip and in honor of my children Anne and David.

#### What is something that no one knows about you?

After 18½ years as a member of the Florida House of Representatives - and all the elections I've been part of - I don't think there's anything left to reveal. How about: I love to dance and to sing!

## In Other Happenings...

With March around the corner, we celebrate International Women's Day (IWD). IWD is a global holiday celebrated annually on March 8 as a focal point in the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women. It is also a day to celebrate women's achievements and a call for positive change advancing women. Since 1995, presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."

In Honor of **Women's History Month**



**A SERIES OF VIRTUAL PROGRAMS ON WOMEN DURING THE HOLOCAUST**

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach Presents



**When Families Disappeared: Camp Schvesters (Sisters)**

With **Dr. Michael Berenbaum**

**Wednesday, March 8 | 7 PM ON ZOOM**

*Appropriate for adults*

When they lost family members during the Holocaust, many Jewish women and girls formed substitute "families" with other women. These sisterhoods were particularly important inside concentration camps, where the bonds formed between women often helped them survive constant danger. During this virtual event, Dr. Michael Berenbaum, world-renowned historian, Director of the Sigi Ziering Institute and Professor of Jewish Studies at American Jewish University, will share details about the phenomenon of camp schvesters.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT THE SPEAKER.](#)



**▶ CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE VIRTUAL EVENT**  
Advance registration is required. Program access information will be sent upon registration.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING VIRTUAL PROGRAMS**

**Monday, March 20 | 7 PM**  
Women in the Holocaust: A Feminist History  
With **Dr. Zoe Waxman**  
Historian and scholar of modern Jewish history at University of Oxford  
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**Monday, March 27 | 7 PM**  
Women in Resistance  
With **Julia Mintz**  
Director of the acclaimed film *Four Winters: A Story of Jewish Partisan Resistance & Bravery in World War II*  
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

# We Can Do It!



Greater Miami Jewish Federation

The Strength of a People. The Power of Community.



Join Women's Philanthropy for an International Women's Day Mitzvah Workshop

March 8  
9:30-11:30am

Kosher Food Bank  
15455 West Dixie Highway, Bay R  
North Miami Beach

SPACE IS LIMITED.  
RSVP by March 1<sup>st</sup> to [wp@jewishmiami.org](mailto:wp@jewishmiami.org)

Please bring any of the following to donate:  
shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, period products

Andrea Floyd-Beck & Heather Rosen  
Mitzvah Workshop Co-Chairs

Tammy Woldenberg, WP President  
Elise Udelson, WP Campaign Chair  
Debbie Abramowitz, WP Mini Missions Chair  
Ofi Osin-Cohen, WP Director  
Batya Lisker, WP Assistant Director

WP is proud to partner with the Miami Beach JCC as a co-sponsor of the below 2 programs.

## In Honor of International Woman's Day

Comedian, best-selling author, screenwriter, playwright, and actress

# Rita Rudner

Wednesday, March 8 at 7:30 pm  
at the Miami Beach JCC

Guests \$18 | Members and Patrons \$10  
[RSVP at mbjcc.ticketleap.com/rita-rudner](https://mbjcc.ticketleap.com/rita-rudner)

**The memoir of comedian, best-selling author, screenwriter, playwright, and actress Rita Rudner.**

From a difficult childhood to dancing in New York at fifteen to becoming a Johnny Carson favorite to headlining in Las Vegas to motherhood, Rita wittily explains her eventful life journey. The one constant in her life has been her dogs. She explains, "Across the decades, I have depended on the steady, non-judgmental, immensely-satisfying love that only dogs can bring."

Sponsored By  
Mollie Zweig Foundation



Community Partners






## In Honor of International Woman's Day




Founder and CEO of Innovation Africa

# Sivan Ya'ari

in Conversation With Audrey Weiner

Wednesday, March 29 at 7:30 pm  
at the Miami Beach JCC

Free and open to the community. [RSVP at mbjcc.ticketleap.com/sivan-ya'ari](https://mbjcc.ticketleap.com/sivan-ya'ari)

Sivan Ya'ari, named one of 50 "Most Influential Women in Israel" by Forbes, joins us for an inspiring conversation about her work as founder and CEO of Innovation Africa, a nonprofit that brings Israeli solar, agricultural and water technologies to African villages. Sivan will be joined by Audrey Weiner, Board Member of Innovation Africa and Board Member of The Miami Beach JCC, as well as Laura Steckler, Senior Vice President, Investments and Managing Director, Investments Steckler Wealth Management Group. Laura worked with Sivan and Innovation Africa to bring water to approximately 4000 people in a village in South Africa.

Sponsored By  
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## Did You Know???

### Federation is always ready to respond.

Your donation to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation Turkey-Syria Earthquakes Emergency Fund goes directly to emergency response organizations, which are on the ground providing humanitarian aid. Cadena, an international, disaster-response nonprofit and Federation partner, is using its Life Locator, a tool that can track signs of life in disaster situations. They are working closely with Israel Defense Forces Home Front Command. Our overseas partner, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) responded within hours of the earthquakes and has been distributing ready-to-eat meals, blankets and thermal clothing, heated tents and first aid kits, and is working with the Turkish Embassy to deliver medical supplies to hospitals severely damaged by the disaster that are continuing to treat survivors. In addition to Cadena and JDC, there has been a significant response by Israeli organizations including IsraAID, United Hatzalah, Magen David Adom and Natan.



## Israel at 75 Miami Mega Mission

Join our Miami community April 20-27, 2023 to celebrate this monumental moment. The cost is \$3,975/person for double occupancy. The itinerary includes: 5 nights in Jerusalem, 2 nights in Tel Aviv, 6 unforgettable Mega Events, 5-star hotels, meals, all touring, tips and more! Additionally, there is an option to join our Pre-Mission to Poland April 17-19, 2023 (currently waitlist only).

**For more information and to register, please see below.**



## Sharing and Caring

### **Mazel tov to:**

Silvia Assor on the marriage of her daughter  
Julie Bercow on the marriage of her daughter  
Andrea Floyd-Beck on her Bat Mitzvah  
Barbara Black Goldfarb on her Bat Mitzvah

### **Speedy Recovery to:**

Steve Bachenheimer - husband of Elaine

Celebrating an Event? Milestone? Or had a loss? We want to know. Please be sure to send us the information. If we don't know, we can't care and share ([wp@jewishmiami.org](mailto:wp@jewishmiami.org))