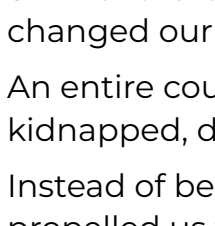


"To be Jewish is to be present whenever
our presence is needed by other Jews." ~ Elie Wiesel

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM ELISE UDELSON



In the fall, I wrote to you with a message from Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, z"l, who said, "Optimism is the belief that the world is changing for the better; hope is the belief that, together, we can make the world better. Optimism is a passive virtue, hope an active one. It needs no courage to be an optimist, but it takes a great deal of courage to hope."

Six months later, we continue to feel the pain of the atrocities of October 7, which forever changed our lives, our hearts and our minds.

An entire country is impacted on some level. Everyone in Israel knows someone murdered, kidnapped, displaced or serving in the military. From afar, it, too, has taken a toll on us.

Instead of being stuck with feelings of despair, our courage, strength and sense of hope propelled us to take action. Our Miami community alone raised more than \$29 million for the Israel Emergency Fund in a short time. The needs are great, and even if the war should end soon, they will continue for a long time. Of course, Miami also continues to be a priority and we must respond at home as well.

As we celebrated the holiday of *Purim* last month, we were reminded of good and evil. That resonates with all of us today even more than pages in a book. We all know the story of Queen Esther, who saved the Jewish people. But Esther is in all of us! We, too, can be bold and courageous enough to stand for truth and fight for the good of others. As a community of women philanthropists, we are bound by our values, morals and common beliefs. We must continue doing our part to care for the Jewish people in our community, in Israel and across the world. This is the heart of the Federation Mission.

Our tradition teaches us that even when the world seems doomed, we never give up, no matter the circumstances. Being hopeful is our essence. Maybe it's our secret weapon!

The upcoming Passover holiday underlines women's optimism. Women set the tone for the entire nation when they left Egypt. They packed tambourines of all things! Why? Because they had the foresight to know there would be reason to celebrate with song and dance. As representatives of hope, it was the women who led the way. Together, let us lead the way now. We, too, will dance again!

Elise

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN AND ISRAEL EMERGENCY FUND UPDATE

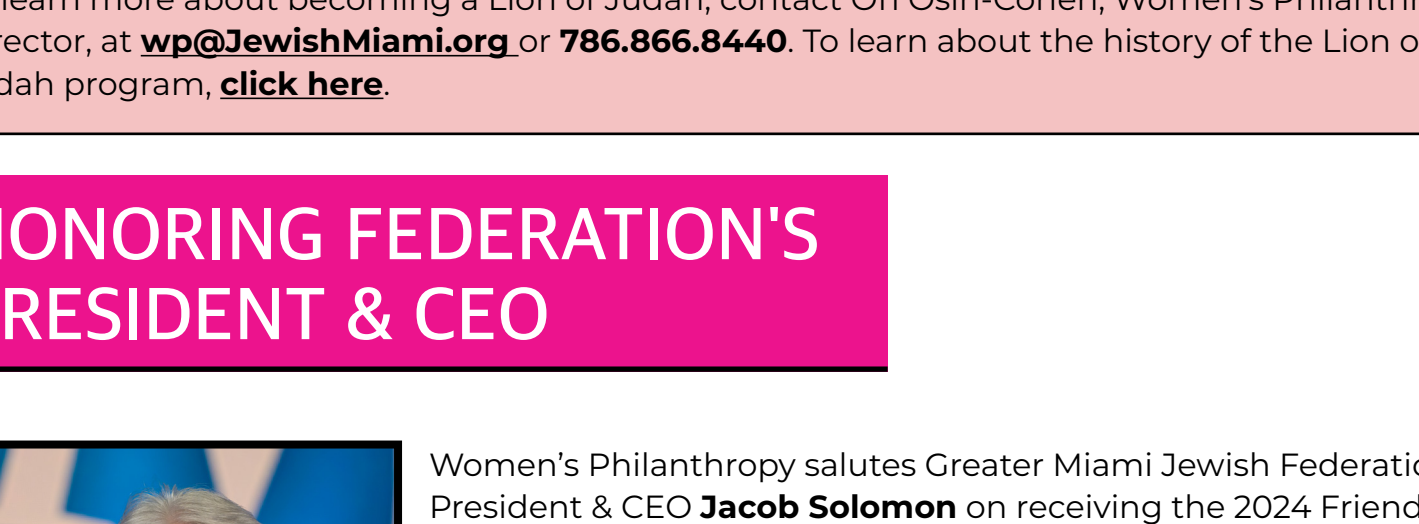
The Greater Miami Jewish Federation is here to support the Jewish people and Israel, our spiritual homeland, as we have been doing for 85 years and counting. The Annual Greater Miami Jewish Federation/UJA Campaign makes it possible for Federation to respond immediately to any crisis, both local and overseas, with lifesaving humanitarian relief. Through your donation to the Annual Campaign, you can support vital services today and safeguard the future of the Jewish people in Miami, in Israel and in more than 70 other countries around the world. Your gift combines with thousands of others to make the big difference one person could never do alone. On behalf of all you are helping through your generosity, we thank you!

The 2023 Campaign has come to a close, with a total of \$27 million raised, and the 2024 Campaign is off to a great start. If you haven't yet made a donation, please consider doing so now by [clicking here](#).

Responding to the tremendous humanitarian needs in Israel following Hamas' horrific terrorist attacks on October 7, the Jewish Federations of North America have raised more than \$800 million through its Israel Emergency Fund, with more than \$29 million coming from the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

LION OF JUDAH EVENT

"We are here today because we are hurting ... because we need each other ... because we are Jews ... because we want to do something ... because, together, we CAN do something." These powerful words from Women's Philanthropy Campaign Chair **Amanda Adler** were the reason more than 500 of Miami's most generous women gathered for the Lion of Judah event in January. Chaired by **Jill Schwartz**, the program focused on Federation's vital ongoing response to needs in Israel. Guests heard from an Israeli couple who survived an attack on their *kibbutz* and are grateful for the Federation-funded assistance they received, and the CEO of Federation partner agency the Israel Trauma Coalition (ITC), which is providing critical therapeutic support to traumatized Israelis. Both Women's Philanthropy President **Elise Udelson** and Immediate Past President **Tammy Woldenberg** spoke about their experiences on a recent solidarity mission to Israel. The event also included an interview with and performance by Broadway star **Micaela Diamond**, who shared her Jewish journey and wowed everyone with her magnificent singing voice. [Click here](#) to read more.



To learn more about becoming a Lion of Judah, contact Ofi Osin-Cohen, Women's Philanthropy Director, at wp@JewishMiami.org or **786.866.8440**. To learn about the history of the Lion of Judah program, [click here](#).

HONORING FEDERATION'S PRESIDENT & CEO



Women's Philanthropy salutes Greater Miami Jewish Federation President & CEO **Jacob Solomon** on receiving the 2024 Friend of Israel Humanitarian Award at the Main Event. Solomon is retiring from Federation after serving the Jewish community for more than 42 years. The Main Event, which included a keynote address by His Excellency **Reuven Rivlin**, the 10th President of Israel, and a conversation with guest of honor His Excellency **Michael Herzog**, Israel's Ambassador to the US, also allowed 1,400 members of Miami's community to stand in solidarity with Israel. More than \$4 million was raised for the 2024 Federation/UJA Campaign, which offers a lifeline of support through more than 170 programs around the world.

WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY BOARD MEETING

Our January meeting, held at the home of Women's Philanthropy Campaign Chair **Amanda Adler**, enabled Board members to share in a practical and powerful learning session about leadership traits and models of leadership from **Rabbi Mike Uram**, Chief Jewish Learning Officer for the Jewish Federations of North America. In addition, the women received updates on events held over the last few months and planned events for the future. Everyone left feeling empowered, inspired and ready to do more. If you want to get involved, please contact us at wp@JewishMiami.org. Also, please check out upcoming events below and join us!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENT WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY EVENTS

BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club continues to be very active. Recently, nearly 35 women gathered to discuss Mitch Albom's latest book *The Little Lie*. The novel, set in Greece during the Holocaust, focuses on the consequences of what we are told to believe, the long-lasting impact of these truths (or lies) and the need for forgiveness. While the book reviews from the group were mixed, the lively discussion centered on the relevance of the story's message in today's world. Thank you to **Julie Bernstein** for hosting the Book Club in her home and for the lunch that followed.



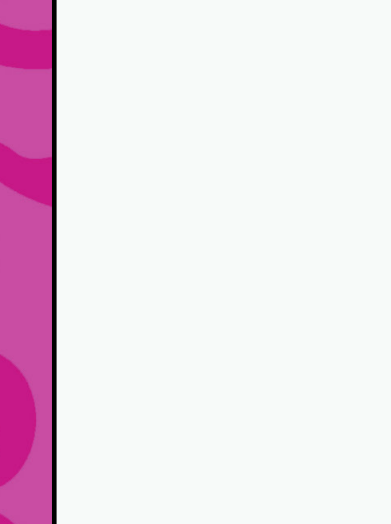
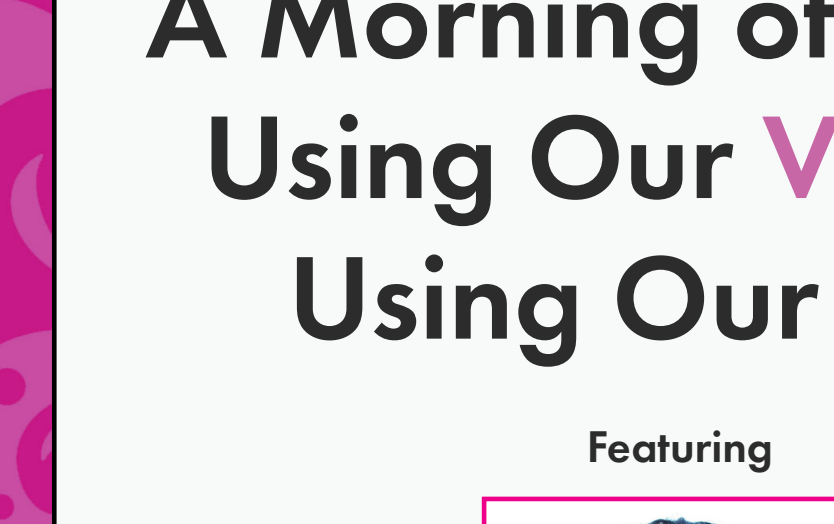
LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Women's Philanthropy and Federation's International Division hosted a Ladies' Night Out at Skybar with more than 100 attendees. **Debbie Mendal** introduced The Kallah Project, a Federation-funded initiative that provides high-quality wedding essentials for brides. "We want to ensure that every bride, regardless of financial constraints, starts her married life with a memorable wedding day," said Mendal. **Yaffa Palti**, the social media influencer and dynamic international speaker, spoke about the power of women in ensuring Jewish continuity. As leaders, we know that when you educate a man, you educate an individual, but when you educate a woman, you educate a family and a nation. "The house always wins," said Palti, referring to how it's a woman's role and nature to shape the next generation. For more information on The Kallah Project or to donate a wedding gown, please follow them on Instagram @TheKallahProject.



FEED YOUR SOUL

Feed Your Soul was a delicious event held at the unique, new French kosher restaurant Ostrow Brasserie. It nourished both body and spirit while connecting almost 65 women to each other and to our community. We were reminded that the challenges Queen Esther faced are not confined to the history pages. Guests heard stories of courageous women (and men, too) from October 7 — many of whom, at the cost of their own lives, led with purpose and sacrifice. The event, chaired by **Dr. Margo Brilliant**, was a testament to the power of unity, resilience and the indomitable spirit of women leaders. The program also featured an interview with award-winning chef and restaurateur **Olivia Ostrow**, a trailblazer in her own right.



JOIN US FOR THIS UPCOMING EVENT

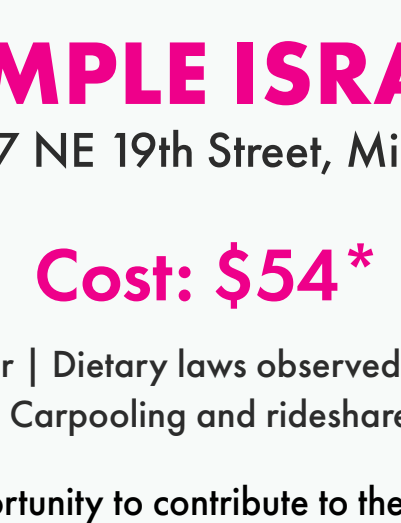


Women's Philanthropy Invites You To

The **WOMEN'S** Event

A Morning of
Using Our Voices,
Using Our Hands

Featuring



Alana Newhouse
Editor-in-Chief, *Tablet Magazine*

[Click here](#) to learn about our speaker.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

10 AM Coffee and chat

10:30 AM Guest speaker followed by **hands-on mitzvah projects** that fulfill a need and raise awareness about specific challenges impacting women and children

12:30 PM Program concludes

TEMPLE ISRAEL

137 NE 19th Street, Miami

Cost: \$54*

Coffee and breakfast bar | Dietary laws observed | Comfortable chic attire
Limited street parking. Carpooling and rideshare highly recommended.

You will have the opportunity to contribute to the Annual Greater Miami Jewish Federation/UJA Campaign. A \$500 minimum donation is suggested.

*Not tax deductible as a charitable contribution

CLICK HERE TO RSVP

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Women's History Month has been observed annually in March since 1987 to celebrate women's often overlooked contributions to history, culture and society. Jewish women have been recognized for thousands of years with the *Woman of Valor* praise traditionally sung each Friday night at *Shabbat* dinner.

Jewish history abounds with strong, dynamic female leaders who ensured the survival of the Jewish people. They lived in different eras, had radically different circumstances, were of various ages and did not come from the same religious or economic backgrounds, yet all of them held fast to a belief in the timeless, enduring, transcendent Jewish cause. They dedicated themselves to building and strengthening their communities, to advocating for a Jewish state, to resisting during the Holocaust to save lives and so much more. Where other people around them were content to accept the status quo, they saw a burning need for change they could not ignore. Their acts of heroism and courage are extraordinary.

Women like Queen Esther, heroine of the recent *Purim* holiday, sprang into action when Mordechai said, "Who knows whether it was just for such a time as this that you attained the royal position?" So many throughout Jewish history heeded this plea and stood up for their belief in building a better world, as if this is exactly the reason they were created. Their legacies and values continue to guide us today.

At a time when our Jewish future is being threatened, it is our time now to take a stance. Let's walk in the footsteps of the Jewish women before us and live our lives with the same intensity and burning passions that they embodied.

To read more about other heroic Jewish women, [click here](#).

Women's Philanthropy was also proud to partner with Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council to create a social media video to draw attention to Hamas' brutal sexual violence in the October 7 attacks. On International Women's Day — March 8 — and with your help, we shared the post to make it go viral! [Click here](#) to watch the video again.

To learn more about Women's Philanthropy or to get involved, email us at wp@JewishMiami.org.

Join us on [Facebook](#)

WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

Elise Udelson, *Campaign Chair*
Amanda Adler, *Campaign Chair*
Leslie Benitah, *Vice President Campaign & Leadership*
Michele Scheck, *Vice President Education & Leadership*
Jocelyn Bergman, *Vice President Outreach & Development*
Tammy Woldenberg, *Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee Chair*
Elaine Bachheimer, *Cristina Ben-Shmuel, Marissa Gimmelstein and Malka Rodria, Area Representatives*
Heidi Baumann, *Michelle Ben-Aviv, Melissa Buckner, Jennifer Chachkes, Suzette Diamond, Corey Feinsilver, Caryn Frishman, Lillian Furst, Lisa Goldstein, Nicole Gorin, Adriana Halac, Marian Kruss, Brenda Nullman, Ailsa Oppenheim, Laurel Schwartz, Jayne Shapiro, Judy Siboni, Mindy Solomon, Miriam Steinberg, Lisa Weiner and Tina Wolf, Members-at-Large*
Ofi Osin-Cohen, *Director*
Batya Lisker, *Assistant Director*

GREATER MIAMI JEWISH FEDERATION

Ariel Bentata, *Chair of the Board*
Jacob Solomon, *President & CEO*
Lily Serviansky, *General Campaign Chair*
Jeffrey Y. Levin, *Chief Development Officer*
Abbey Feinberg, *Annual Campaign Director*