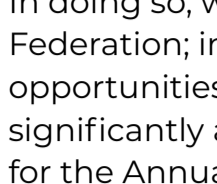


"To be Jewish is to be present whenever  
our presence is needed by other Jews." ~ Elie Wiesel

**Women's Philanthropy mourns the tragic loss of our Campaign Chair Amanda Adler's beloved daughter, Ella, z"l, and extends our heartfelt condolences to the entire family. May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM ELISE UDELSON



As we head into summer, I can't help but reflect on the past few months. I began my term as Women's Philanthropy (WP) President geared up with an awesome, talented Board in place and lots of exciting plans to execute. Then on October 7, the unthinkable happened. Our Mission and work became more important than ever. With thoughtful consideration and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, we pivoted as needed to move forward. We were intentional in bringing meaningful and substantive content to all of our programs during this time.

In doing so, we engaged women new to our community or new to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation; inspired others to step up, become educated and get involved; and created opportunities to come together to support each other. Our Lion of Judah sisterhood increased significantly and all of our events were very well attended. Together, we raised vital dollars, both for the Annual Greater Miami Jewish Federation/UJA Campaign and the Israel Emergency Fund to meet the unprecedented rising needs locally and abroad. We could not have accomplished all of that without your willingness to share your time, treasures and talents. Thank you!

As Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, z"l, shared, "We need to have communities. Thank you! responsibilities, built on mutual respect, shared purpose and collective action." I am very proud of our Miami community, which continues to shine bright under the incredible leadership of Federation President and CEO, **Jacob Solomon**. I want to take this opportunity to wish him the very best upon his retirement on June 30 after serving with much distinction for more than 40 years. He will be greatly missed.

Please join me in welcoming President & CEO - Interim **Scott Kaufman**. His extensive federation background will continue to propel us forward. I hope you will get to meet him soon.

For now, be on the lookout for information as we gear up for next year. I hope to see you at our events and welcome your ideas, feedback and suggestions. While we can't promise you we will implement them, we can promise we are open to hearing them, so feel free to reach out.

Let me take this opportunity to extend my personal condolences to **Amanda Adler** and her husband, **Matt**, on the tragic passing of their beautiful daughter, Ella. Her loss is deeply felt by the entire community. May her memory be a blessing.

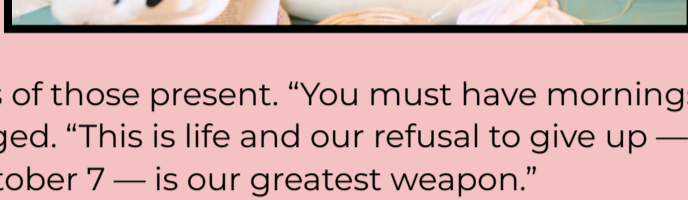
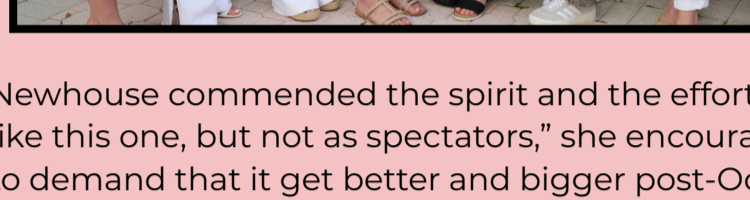
Elise

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENT WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY EVENTS

### THE WOMEN'S EVENT

For Jews today, "the most important rebellion or act of bravery is the refusal to be demoralized," declared *Tablet* magazine founder and Editor-in-Chief **Alana Newhouse**, keynote speaker at the recently reformatted Women's Event.

In the wake of October 7, Newhouse reminded guests that, "Anything can happen and because anything can happen, you still have power. Let's use it!" Chaired by **Adriana Halac**, the program — one of Women's Philanthropy annual events — carried the theme, "Using Our Voices, Using Our Hands," and attendees worked together on a number of *mitzvah* projects. The group packed personal hygiene kits to address period poverty, built teddy bears for siblings of infants in neonatal intensive care units and decorated keepsake boxes for children living in foster care. A fourth *mitzvah* project included government consultant **Erica Chanti**, who instructed participants on how to partner with local officials and advocate on behalf of the Jewish community.



Newhouse commended the spirit and the efforts of those present. "You must have mornings like this one, but not as spectators," she encouraged. "This is life and our refusal to give up — to demand that it get better and bigger post-October 7 — is our greatest weapon."

For more information on how to get involved, please contact [wp@JewishMiami.org](mailto:wp@JewishMiami.org).

### COFFEE AND CONVERSATION



The Coffee and Conversation program, chaired by **Judy Siboni** and **Nancy Zaro**, took place six months after October 7. It was an opportunity to come together and hear from WP President **Elise Udelsion**, WP Campaign Chair **Amanda Adler** and **Ofi Osin-Cohen**, who each shared moving experiences during Federation Solidarity Missions to Israel. Their reflections of those they met and the sites they visited were very moving, personal and impactful. They stressed how every person in Israel has been affected in some manner and on a scale that is unprecedented. The missions serve to bear witness to the horrors and the importance of sharing the stories upon returning so they are better understood.

### WOMEN LIGHT UP THE WORLD

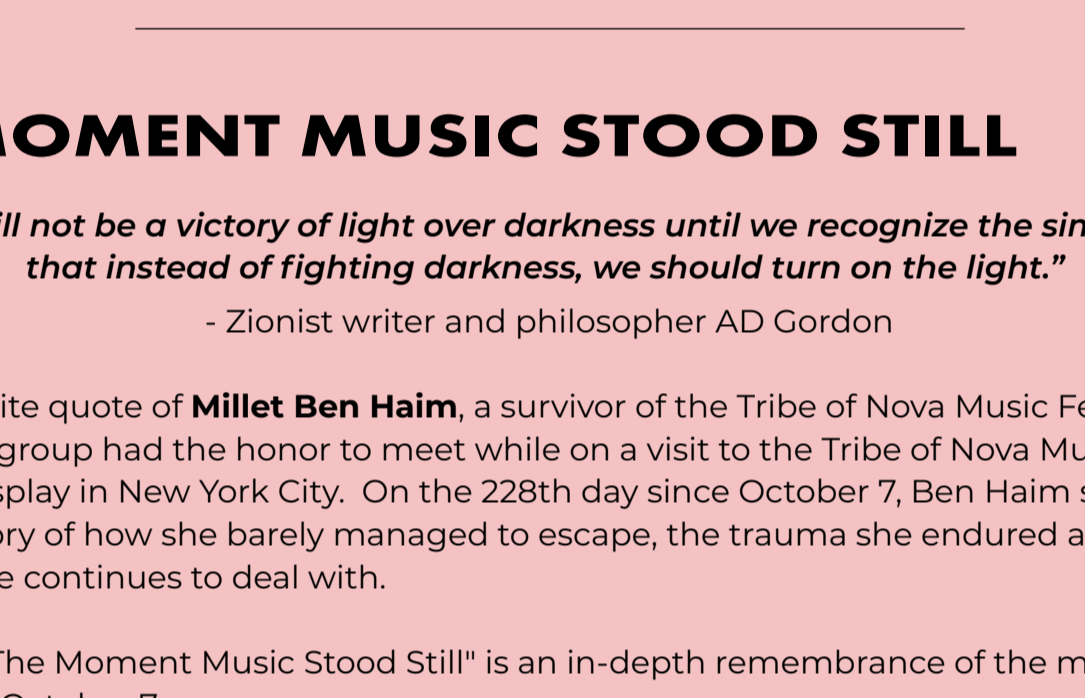
The recent Women's Philanthropy South Dade event took place during the week of *Yom HaShoah* and on the 214th day since the barbaric Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel.

The program was an opportunity to spread light — quite literally. Attendees learned about the many ways candle-lighting plays an integral part in Jewish rituals and life. A *yahzeit* candle was lit in memory of the millions who were murdered in the Holocaust as well as to honor those who were slaughtered on October 7. When a soul departs from this world, it leaves behind a dark void. The memorial candle serves to replenish this light.

Personal and emotional reflections were shared by three women who participated in a recent Solidarity Mission to Israel, followed by an update on how Federation has responded to provide much-needed support to Israelis.

The more than 55 women who attended made beautiful candles that were donated to others for Mother's Day through the JCS Kosher Food Bank.

This event was chaired by **Anna Dushanskaya**, **Rachel Fayman**, **Marisa Gimelstein** and **Rachel Schapiro**.



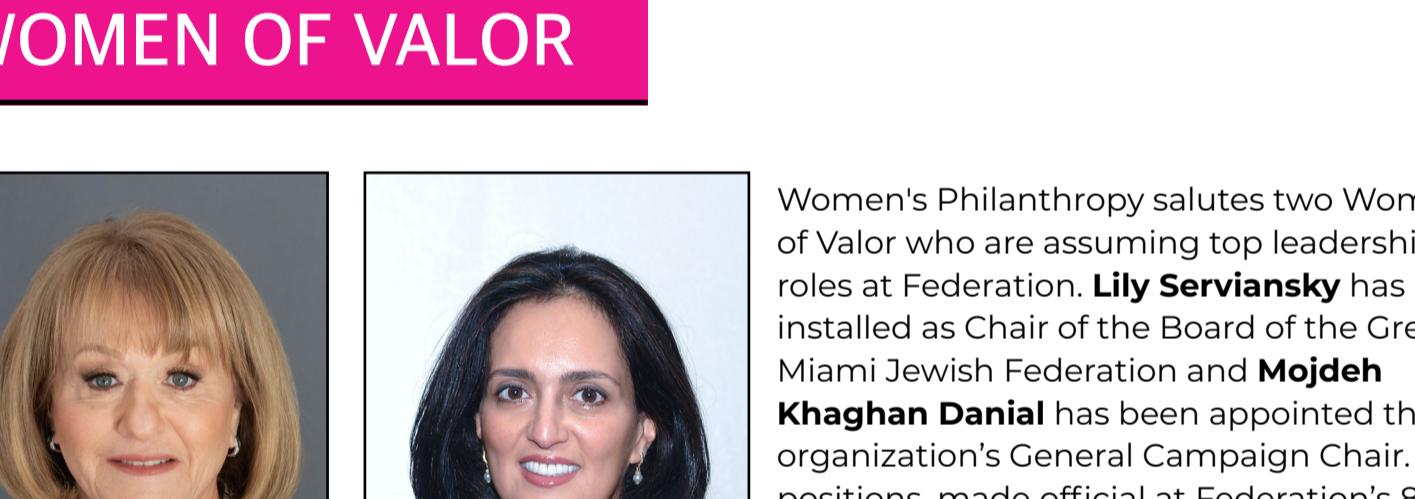
### THE MOMENT MUSIC STOOD STILL

*"There will not be a victory of light over darkness until we recognize the simple truth that instead of fighting darkness, we should turn on the light."*

- Zionist writer and philosopher AD Gordon

This is a favorite quote of **Millet Ben Haim**, a survivor of the Tribe of Nova Music Festival, who our WP group had the honor to meet on a visit to the Tribe of Nova Music Festival Exhibit on display in New York City. On the 228th day since October 7, Ben Haim shared the incredible story of how she barely managed to escape, the trauma she endured and the aftermath she continues to deal with.

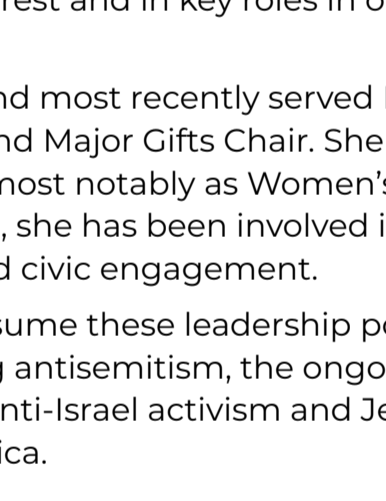
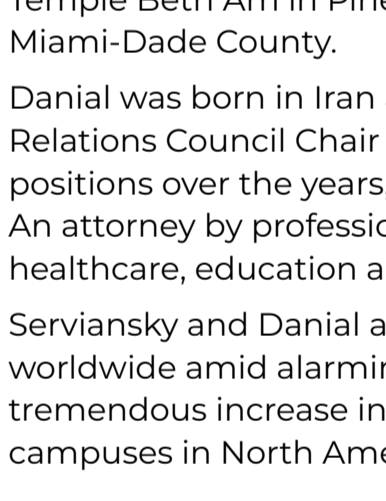
The exhibit "The Moment Music Stood Still" is an in-depth remembrance of the music festival massacre on October 7.



Ben Haim is an inspiration and a hero in her own right. She reminded the group to have hope, to tell the stories of what happened and the importance of community for healing.

The exhibit was extremely emotional, even for those who participated in a Solidarity Mission to Israel, where they saw and heard firsthand accounts. Powerful, painful, meaningful, heartbreaking, memorable, moving — these were just some of the words used by the group participants to describe the experience. The visit to New York was chaired by **Suzette Diamond**.

### WOMEN OF VALOR



Women's Philanthropy salutes two Women of Valor who are assuming top leadership roles at Federation. **Lily Serviansky** has been installed as Chair of the Board of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and **Mojdeh Khaghan Danial** has been appointed the organization's General Campaign Chair. Both positions, made official at Federation's 86th Annual Meeting on May 30, will be effective July 1 and continue for two years. Serviansky succeeds **Ariel Bentata**, who served with distinction as Board Chair since 2022.

The two women were both born outside the US and are illustrative of one of the most diverse Jewish communities in the nation.

Born in Mexico, Serviansky most recently served as General Campaign Chair and led the effort to raise nearly \$27 million for the Annual Greater Miami Jewish Federation/UJA Campaign and nearly \$30 million for the Israel Emergency Fund, the latter of which was launched the day of the horrific October 7 terrorist massacre in Israel. Serviansky is a passionate community leader, having served as Chair of The Foundation of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, President of Temple Beth Am in Pinecrest and in key roles in other community nonprofits throughout Miami-Dade County.

Danial was born in Iran and most recently served Federation as both Jewish Community Relations Council Chair and Major Gifts Chair. She has served in numerous other Federation positions over the years, most notably as Women's Philanthropy President from 2010 to 2012. An attorney by profession, she has been involved in various causes in our community, including healthcare, education and civic engagement.

Serviarsky and Danial assume these leadership positions at a pivotal moment for Jews worldwide amid alarming antisemitism, the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas and a tremendous increase in anti-Israel activism and Jew hatred on college and university campuses in North America.

## ISRAEL AND JEWISH EDUCATION SERIES FOR VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Join **Rabbi Mike Uram**, Chief Jewish Learning Officer at the Jewish Federations of North America, for a series on Israel's history through a lens of complexity and gain a better understanding of Israel and Zionism. This two-session course aims to help you feel more grounded and confident when it comes to understanding Israel today and the politics as they show up in North American Jewish life. This series is open to all Federation volunteer leaders, Board Chairs and community members; no prior knowledge is needed and we look forward to seeing you on Zoom.

The Zoom sessions will take place on two Tuesdays — June 18 and June 25 — from 4 to 5 p.m. [Register here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact [wp@JewishMiami.org](mailto:wp@JewishMiami.org).

## LION OF JUDAH UPDATES

### SAVE THE DATE

### International Lion of Judah Conference

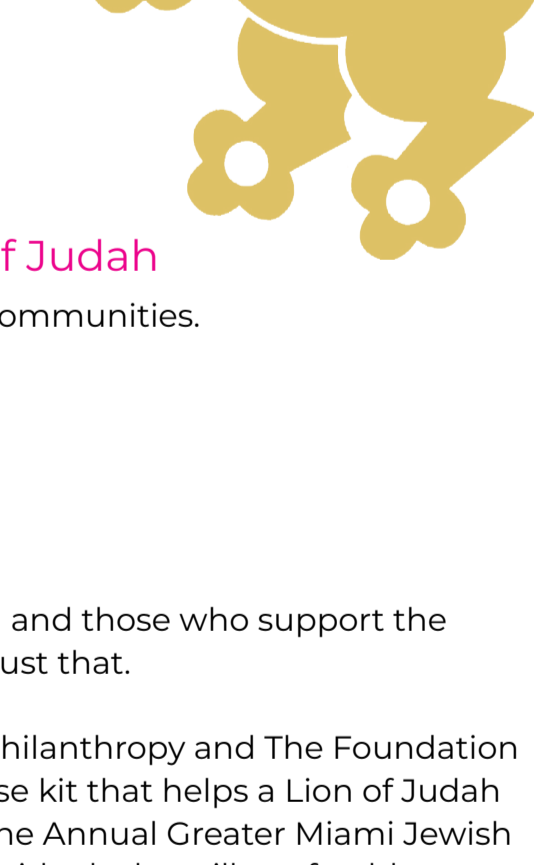
January 12-14, 2025

Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, Georgia

Registration opens soon

Open to philanthropists recognized as a **Lion of Judah**

(making an annual donation of \$5,000 or more) in their local communities.



### LION BEHIND THE PIN

Passing on our most precious values is part of Jewish tradition and those who support the needs of the Jewish community now have another way to do just that.

The new **Lion Behind the Pin** program, offered by Women's Philanthropy and The Foundation of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, includes an easy-to-use kit that helps a Lion of Judah — a philanthropic woman donating \$5,000 or more yearly to the Annual Greater Miami Jewish Federation/UJA Campaign — designate her Lion pin to an individual who will, preferably, become a Lion of Judah someday and wear the pin with pride. The Lion Behind the Pin program also assists those wishing to create a Lion of Judah Endowment to ensure their legacy as a Forever Lion in perpetuity. [Read more](#) about how to take advantage of this innovative opportunity. For additional information, please contact **Jill Hagler**, Director of Foundation Development, at [jhagler@gmjf.org](mailto:jhagler@gmjf.org) or 786.866.8627 or **Ofi Osin-Cohen**, Director of Women's Philanthropy, at [osin-cohen@gmjf.org](mailto:osin-cohen@gmjf.org) or 786.866.8440.



## WELCOME TO THE WP TEAM



We are pleased to announce that **Shelley Benizri** has joined our WP team as a Senior Campaign Associate. She will also serve as the Director of Federation's Israeli Division.

Most recently, Benizri was the Major Gifts Director for Southern NCSY. She has also served as Senior Programs and Development Manager at the Israeli American Council (IAC), Director of Operations and Finance at Hillel at the University of Miami, Claims Analyst at the Claims Conference, Case Manager and Certified Domestic Violence Counselor.

Benizri has a BA in American Studies with a specialty in issues of race and ethnicity from Stanford University and received Hillel's Light of Leadership Award for activism around Israel and Jewish life on campus. She is a native of Israel and served in the Israel Defense Forces. She is fluent in English and Hebrew and basic conversational Spanish.

We look forward to working together to expand our WP programs and outreach.