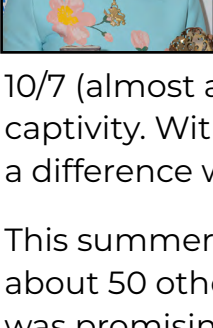


"Our lives no longer belong to us alone; they belong to all those who need us desperately." ~ Elie Wiesel z"l

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM ELISE UDELSON**



"Our lives no longer belong to us alone; they belong to all those who need us desperately." This quote from Elie Wiesel's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech on December 10, 1986 is the Women's Philanthropy (WP) theme this year. So many of his remarks resonated with me. His words seem to always speak to us. They challenge us. They inspire us. And they remain relevant.

Never before have we felt so strongly that we are needed than we have since 10/7 (almost a year ago) and most recently, after the six hostages were brutally murdered in captivity. With heavy hearts, we have felt the urgency to respond, to come together and to make a difference wherever and whenever possible.

This summer, I participated in a national Federation leadership mission to Berlin and Israel with about 50 others from all over North America who represented their respective communities. It was promising to see that Germany has taken a stance to be an ally for Israel, does not tolerate the rise in antisemitism and calls out terrorism. Germany, who would have imagined? This was my second trip to Israel since 10/7. Life appeared to look a bit more "normal" than when I was there in December, but when you speak with people you still feel the impact and the burden they all carry. Yet, when they heard from where we traveled, they couldn't thank us enough for just showing up, for supporting them and for knowing they are not alone! It really mattered to them and it really matters to all those who need us desperately in our backyard or wherever in this world they live.

Jewish Miami is a truly unique community, especially post 10/7. For the most part, we are not being harassed, our college campuses are not seeing protests like in other places, we wear a Star of David necklace or BringThemHome tag or a *kippa* and feel relatively safe. That is not the case everywhere and we should not and cannot take it for granted. There is only one way to ensure that. We must all be involved and do what we can. So, as we approach the High Holidays and this inherent period of reflection, introspection and new beginnings, join us in this effort.

Get connected, raise awareness, make a commitment, speak out, learn the facts. When you've got time, networks and talent, your life will be enriched in return. I know because mine has!

We have so many events planned for the year. Checkout our calendar at the end of the newsletter filled with educational, cultural and volunteer opportunities. We encourage you to join us and I hope to meet you there.

Together we will fight evil and make the world a better place for all of us.

*Shanah Tovah!*

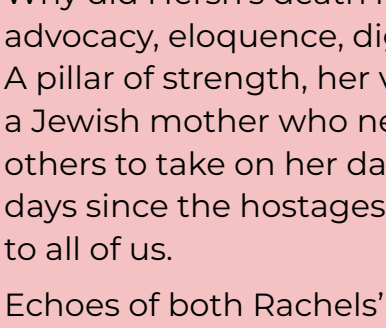
May it be a sweet and peaceful year!

*Am Yisrael Chai*

#Bringthemhomenow

Elise

**WOMEN OF VALOR**



Mama Rachel is weeping for her child. The ancient words of the prophet Jeremiah haunt us:

*A cry is heard in Ramah –  
Wailing, bitter weeping –  
Rachel weeping for her children.  
She refuses to be comforted  
For her children, who are gone.*

This biblical verse refers to our matriarch, Rachel. It speaks to the timeless grief as she weeps for her children, the pain of exile and the fear of annihilation, refusing comfort until her precious ones are united in her arms. They resonate today for Jews all around the world, united in anguish as our hearts are shattered yet again after October 7.

Another Rachel has more recently gripped us with the grief of a bereft Jewish mother. Rachel Goldberg-Polin has demonstrated the epitome of both parental love and pain in biblical proportions for her beloved son, Hersh. For 330 days, she spoke and shouted, cried and prayed on every platform in every corner of the world, most recently inspiring chants of "Bring Them Home Now" from tens of thousands at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

But as we learned, Hersh, Eden Yerushalmi, Carmel Gat, Almog Sarusi, Alex Lubanov and Ori Danino were executed deep underground in the tunnels of Gaza. They would not return home alive.

Why did Hersh's death in particular hit us so hard? It is because of Rachel. With her relentless advocacy, eloquence, dignity and determination, she fought with hope and righteousness. A pillar of strength, her voice carried the weight of the entire Jewish people. A force, a lioness, a Jewish mother who never gave up and led us all to have hope as well. She inspired countless others to take on her daily ritual of marking a piece of masking tape with the number of days since the hostages were taken captive. It served as a constant reminder to her, but also to all of us.

Echoes of both Rachels' cries command us to settle for nothing less than a future where no mother has to cry out for her child.

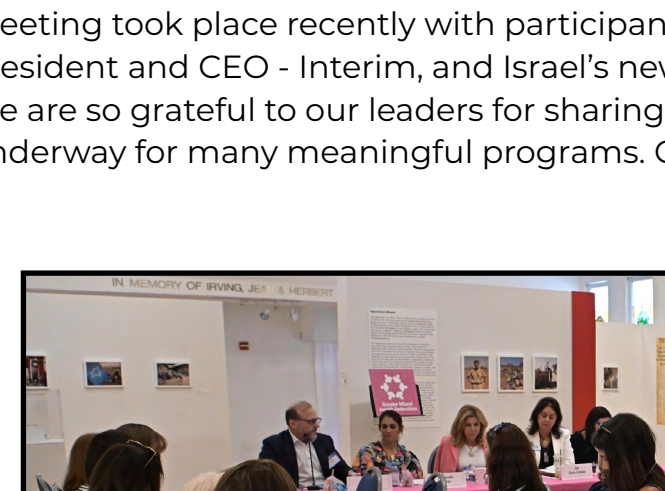
As long as any "Rachel" weeps, our work is not done. We are all Rachels and must continue to be the voice, the hands and the builders of a better world.

May the memory of Hersh, and all those lost and since October 7, 2023, be a blessing.

**WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY KICKED OFF THE YEAR WITH THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:**

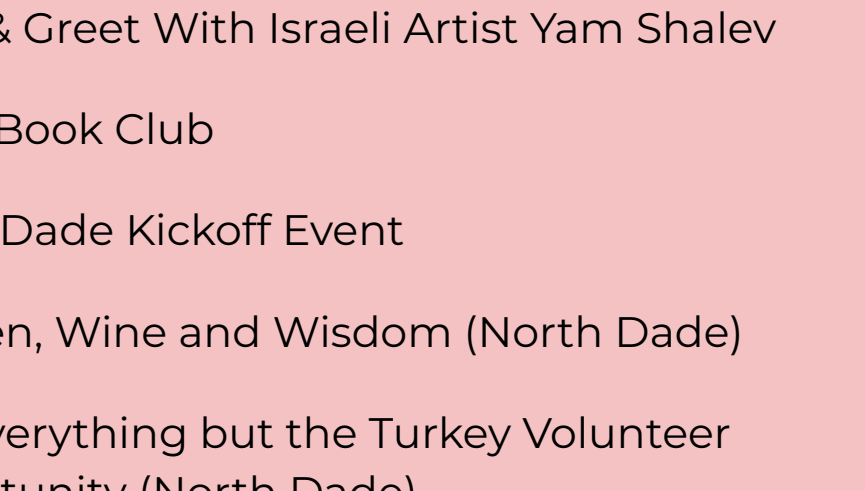
**MIAMI BEACH CHALLAH BAKE**

We all "Knead Spirituality" these days. Nearly 80 women joined Women's Philanthropy for a Challah Bake at the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU to connect, celebrate Jewish identity and learn about community needs in an immersive baking experience with the Challah Mamas. While the challah dough was rising, the women considered how fortunate they are to live as Jews in Miami in 2024. The event was chaired by **Cristina Ben-Shmuel, Jennifer Chachkes, Tran Pham Greenberg** and **Rebecca Smith**.



**SOUTH DADE BABKA BAKE**

Did you know the word "babka" means "grandmother" in Polish? It refers to the grandmothers who made it from leftover challah dough by twisting it and adding nuts and chocolate for *Shabbat*. More than 100 women gathered in South Dade to learn the art of making babka with **Shannon Sarna**, cookbook author and former editor of popular Jewish food site TheNosh.com and more. The event was chaired by **Charlotte Cassel** and **Marissa Gimelstein**.



**WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY BOARD MEETING**

Now that summer is behind us, it's time to get back to our important work. Federation gives us the platform to be responsive and effective during these difficult times. Our first Board meeting took place recently with participants hearing from **Scott Kaufman**, Federation President and CEO - Interim, and Israel's new Deputy Consul General in Miami **Ayellet Black**. We are so grateful to our leaders for sharing their time, treasure and talents. Planning is underway for many meaningful programs. Check out the calendar below and join us.



**JOIN US AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS**

- October 20, 2024** Art of Philanthropy: Meet & Greet With Israeli Artist Yam Shalev
- October 22, 2024** Salon Book Club
- October 30, 2024** North Dade Kickoff Event
- November 7, 2024** Women, Wine and Wisdom (North Dade)
- November 1, 2024** JVC Everything but the Turkey Volunteer Opportunity (North Dade)
- November 17, 2024** JVC Everything but the Turkey Volunteer Opportunity (South Dade)
- November 19, 2024** Lion of Judah Event for Donors of \$5,000+
- December 10, 2024** Women, Wine and Wisdom (South Dade)
- December 17, 2024** Holiday *Mitzvah* Opportunity
- January 12-14, 2025** International Lion of Judah Conference

**MIAMI REMEMBERS OCTOBER 7** FROM MOURNING TO HOPE  
Communitywide Commemoration  
PRESENTED BY GREATER MIAMI JEWISH FEDERATION, Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami, ISRAEL Consulate General of Israel in Miami  
**Monday, October 7, 2024**  
at **Temple Beth Sholom**  
4144 Chase Avenue | Miami Beach  
**CLICK HERE TO RSVP**

**ART OF PHILANTHROPY MEET AND GREET WITH ISRAELI ARTIST YAM SHALEV**  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20  
2-4 PM **REGISTER NOW**

Kick Off the Year With Women's Philanthropy North Dade  
**Is It Written in the Stars?**  
Wednesday, October 30 | 7-9 PM **REGISTER NOW**

**WOMEN WINE & WISDOM** **Islam and the Jews Decoded**  
Thursday, November 7  
7-9 PM **REGISTER NOW**

**LION OF JUDAH Event**  
Tuesday, November 19, 2024  
Jungle Island **REGISTER NOW**

**This holiday season, join us to create toy bags that will be gifted to kids in need.**  
December 17 | 10 AM-Noon  
Lotus House Women's Shelter, 217 NW 15th Street  
RSVP by December 10 to [wp@jewishmiami.org](mailto:wp@jewishmiami.org)

**2025 International Lion of Judah Conference**  
January 12-14 | Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA **SOLD OUT JOIN THE WAITING LIST**

**L'SHANAH TOVA**  
HAVE A SWEET YEAR

To learn more about Women's Philanthropy or to get involved, email us at [wp@JewishMiami.org](mailto:wp@JewishMiami.org) and join our [Facebook group](#) to stay connected.  
Be on the lookout for more to come ...