What if 1 in 8 people in Miami’s Jewish community were depending on you?

They are.

Things have changed for everyone.
But for some people, life has really changed forever.

Today, 1 in 8 people in Miami’s Jewish community receives some form of financial assistance from the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and our local partner agencies.

To care for those who are most vulnerable in our community, in Israel and around the world, we depend on the generosity of donors who are able to help.

Working together in support of the Annual Federation/UJA Campaign, we can accomplish so much more than any one of us can alone.

And there is no substitute for the warm embrace of a community that provides comfort and hope to those in need.

In these serious times and always, every donor counts. Every dollar provides real solutions.

To learn how your dollars are helping or to donate now, visit JewishMiami.org or call 305.576.4000. Thank you.

Greater Miami Jewish Federation/UJA Campaign

The Federation is here to help. If you or anyone you know is in need of assistance, please call our Jewish community’s 24-hour confidential helpline at 305.576.6550, administered by Jewish Community Services of South Florida.

4200 Biscayne Boulevard | Miami, Florida 33137 | 305.576.4000 | JewishMiami.org
FEDERATION WORKING TO MEET ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

TODAY, 1 IN 8 PEOPLE in Miami’s Jewish community receives some form of financial assistance from the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and our local partner agencies — including everything from emergency subsidies for rent and home utilities payments, to tuition assistance for Jewish education, to visits to the JCS Kosher Food Bank. Our Jewish community is doing its utmost to care for and comfort the vulnerable with dignity.  

Read more on pages 1 and 3
Welcome to Your Federation

Throughout history, the notion of community has been central to the Jewish people. Regardless of where we have lived, we have always come together to care for each other and to build and sustain the communal institutions vital to Jewish life.

Miami’s Jewish community today follows this same time-honored tradition. Over the last year and a half, we have seen this commitment to peoplehood and Klal Yisrael (Jewish unity) demonstrated in the most dynamic ways. Though the economic downturn has created a rise in needs locally unlike anything we have seen in recent memory, thousands of members of our community have stepped up to help, giving generously of their resources and their time as volunteers to uphold this most sacred Jewish value of Kol Yisrael arevim ze le ze (All Israel is responsible for one another).

Today, 1 in 8 people in Miami’s Jewish community receives some form of financial assistance from the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and our local partner agencies – including everything from emergency subsidies for rent and home utilities payments, to tuition assistance for Jewish education, to visits to the JCS Kosher Food Bank. Our Jewish community is doing its utmost to care for and comfort the vulnerable with dignity.

As we continue with our holy work on behalf of the Jewish people, we thank you sincerely for supporting the Federation Mission. Your one gift to the Federation/UJA Campaign funds 76 Federation beneficiary agencies in Miami, in Israel and worldwide, making so much possible. We take your investment very seriously and we want you to know that the Greater Miami Jewish Federation received a 4-star rating, the highest possible from Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator. This exceptional rating is an affirmation of our efficiency and effectiveness, indicating that we are fiscally responsible and outperform most comparable fundraising organizations.

We hope you will feel a great sense of pride in reading about how your generosity is making such a difference in the lives of so many people. This edition of Donor News highlights some of the work being done every day to care for our Jewish family worldwide and to uphold the sacred notion of peoplehood. Thank you for your continued support.

The Mission of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation is to mobilize human and financial resources to care for those in need, strengthen Jewish life and advance the unity, values and shared purpose of the Jewish people in Miami, in Israel and around the world.

Connect with your community at JewishMiami.org

Greater Miami Jewish Federation
William Lehman, Jr.
Chair of the Board
Barbara Black Goldfarb
General Campaign Chair
Jacob Solomon
President and CEO

Donor News highlights some of the work being done every day to care for our Jewish family worldwide and to uphold the sacred notion of peoplehood. Thank you for your continued support.

The Mission of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation is to mobilize human and financial resources to care for those in need, strengthen Jewish life and advance the unity, values and shared purpose of the Jewish people in Miami, in Israel and around the world.
LAST YEAR, Federation was able to provide $175,000 in one-time emergency financial grants to help families in our community pay their mortgage, rent and/or utility bills and stay in their homes.

Funding from the Federation/UJA Campaign allowed Federation partner agencies to provide 100,000 hours of homecare assistance for frail Holocaust survivors in our community this past year.

This past academic year, Federation funding supported school scholarships for 2,700 children in Miami, lowering the financial hurdle and helping parents to send their children to a Jewish Day School.

This past summer, Federation funding helped provide $1,000 grants to 42 children in Miami, enabling them to attend Jewish overnight camp for the first time. These children, who were not Jewish Day School students, had no other daily, intensive exposure to Jewish learning.

This year, six congregate meal sites, operated with funding assistance from the Federation/UJA Campaign, served nutritious, kosher meals to 800 frail seniors who have few resources to pay for food, have difficulty cooking, and face social isolation if not for this service.

Through your ONE generous gift to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation/UJA Annual Campaign, you are helping to fund a vital lifeline of services provided by these 76 Federation beneficiary agencies and programs in Miami, in Israel and around the world. Thank you for your support.

Local Programs and Agencies
- Alexander Muss High School in Israel
- Association for Jewish Special Education
- B’nai B’rith Youth Organization
- Beth David/Gordon Day School
- Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education
- Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center on the Jay Morton-Levinthal Campus
- Day School Hardship Scholarships
- Destination Israel of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation
- Greenfield Day School
- Hebrew Free Loan Association of South Florida
- High Holiday Welcome Program of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation
- Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life (seven Florida campuses)
- Hochberg Preparatory: A Solomon Schechter Day School at Beth Torah Benny Rok Campus
- Holocaust Documentation and Education Center
- Holocaust Memorial of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation
- Israel Programs: Passport to Israel
- Taglit-Birthright Israel
- Israel Scholarships
- Jacobson Sinai Academy
- Jewish Chaplaincy Program of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation
- Jewish Community Relations Council of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation
- Jewish Community Services of South Florida
- Jewish Community Services/Access and Information
- Jewish Federation Housing
- Jewish Museum of Florida
- Jewish Volunteer Center of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation
- Keshet L.D.
- Lehrman Community Day School
- Machina High School
- Miami Beach Jewish Community Center
- Miami Jewish Health Systems
- Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center on the Sanford L. Ziff Campus
- Mount Sinai Medical Center
- Nefitz HaChochma
- Organization for Leadership Advancement in Miami of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation
- Overnight Camp Scholarships
- Rabbi Alexander S. Gross Hebrew Academy
- Samuel Scheek Hillel Community Day School
- Shaarei Bina-Torah Academy for Girls
- Sue & Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies at the University of Miami
- Synagogue School Supplemental Scholarship Program
- Teacher Fringe Benefits Program
- Temple Beth Am Day School
- Torah Emanu Academy of Miami
- Yeshiva Elementary School

National Programs and Services
- American Jewish Committee
- American Jewish Congress
- American Jewish World Service
- Anti-Defamation League
- Association of Jewish Family & Children’s Agencies
- Horvstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program at Brandeis University
- B’nai B’rith Youth Organization (National)
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
- Hebrew Union College School of Jewish Communal Service
- Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life
- Jewish Community Centers Association of North America
- Jewish Council for Public Affairs
- Jewish Education Service of North America
- Jewish Labor Committee
- Jewish Telegraphic Agency
- Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.
- NCJW: Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, Baltic States and Eurasia
- National Foundation for Jewish Culture
- National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership
- Project Interchange, an Institute of the American Jewish Committee
- Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University

Overseas Programs and Services
- The Jewish Federations of North America
- American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
- Ethiopian National Project
- Hunger Amutot in Israel
- Jewish Agency for Israel
- Partnership Initiatives in the Israeli cities of Or Akiva, Pardes Channa-Karkur and Yerucham
- Women’s Amutot Initiative
- World ORT

Connect with your community at JewishMiami.org
MICHAEL GREW UP in an upper-middle-class Jewish family, enjoying a comfortable life that included a private cabana at a Miami Beach hotel. After college, he and his older brother went to work in the family retail business.

That business flourished for many years, but in late 2007, a variety of factors forced the brothers to close their store. Michael was able to make ends meet through a series of short-term jobs and by living off savings and cashed-in IRAs, before finally plunging into a full-scale employment search – just in time for the downturn in the economy.

Michael, now 49, never dreamed he would be in this position. “I used every method I could think of to find a job,” he said. “It was a very humbling experience.”

Through networking, Michael was able to connect with the Greater Miami Jewish Federation’s lead social-service beneficiary agency, Jewish Community Services (JCS) of South Florida. A JCS Employment Specialist helped him rework his resume and sent him job prospects – ultimately helping him find a position.

This was actually the second time a Federation-funded program has touched Michael’s life. “My developmentally challenged younger brother received years of vocational training through JCS,” he said. “I am so thankful that our Jewish community supports such a wide variety of services through the Federation.”

Michael and his brother are just two of the many people who are helped each year by Federation and our agencies. “The fact is, one in every eight people in Miami’s Jewish community receives some form of financial assistance from the Federation and our family of local partner agencies,” said Jacob Solomon, Federation President and CEO. “This shows just how widespread the needs truly are.”

Solomon explained that while some of those receiving assistance have ongoing challenges – they are too frail to cook for themselves or attend to personal care, or they have health problems that prevent them from working – others have encountered circumstances, such as a divorce, an illness or the death of a family member, which made it difficult for them to maintain the status quo.

“But an increasing number of service recipients are the direct result of the economic downturn, which took away people’s jobs, their savings, their healthcare coverage — and, worst of all, their dignity,” he said.

“We are talking about people who once helped others in our Jewish community and never dreamed they’d be on the receiving end of assistance,” said Fred Stock, President and CEO of JCS. “Today, however, they are among those asking for help putting food on their tables.”

FACING THE FACTS

Phone calls to Miami’s 24-hour Jewish community helpline demonstrate the growing needs. Comparing the month of September in 2008 and 2009, referrals for job counseling assistance and vocational training more than doubled. Referrals to the JCS Kosher Food Bank rose by 181 percent, and referrals for medical and dental assistance increased by 333 percent.

Responding to growing community needs, yet faced with a reduced Annual Campaign, Federation leadership worked tirelessly to maximize funding to our local partner agencies – while also maintaining our longstanding commitment to Jews in need in Israel and around the world.

“Before we even began this allocations process, we took every means necessary to minimize cuts to our partner agencies so we could maintain the critical lifeline of support to those in need. That meant reducing our administrative budget and Federation’s workforce, and changing some of the ways we do business,” said William Lehman, Jr., Chair of the Board. “We knew our decisions would have real-life implications for those who depend on us.”

One challenge was how to continue providing immediate assistance to those in urgent need, while also keeping intact programs that impact the Jewish community’s future.

To accomplish this, Lehman said, the leadership decided to take a one-time grant of...
$854,000 from the Federation’s endowment fund (see Foundation article on page 6). In addition, a matching-gift Challenge Fund for the Vulnerable, initiated with a gift from the Braman Family, enabled Federation to make available nearly $1 million in additional allocable dollars.

**Providing Support**

Through these means, as well as critical fundraising efforts, Federation has been able to provide vital support to the most vulnerable. Last year, food baskets, JCS Kosher Food Bank visits and supermarket gift cards were given to nearly 2,300 individuals and families unable to afford groceries. Assistance securing Medicaid coverage, food stamps and other forms of support were also provided for 325 people facing new challenges as a result of the economic downturn. During the first 10 months of 2009, more than $161,000 in emergency financial aid helped individuals pay medical and utility bills, rent and other basic necessities.

According to Dr. Chaim Botwinick, President and CEO of Federation’s partner agency, the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE), the economy is also placing tremendous stress on our community’s Jewish educational institutions. “We are seeing dramatic increases in requests from parents for Jewish Day School scholarships.”

In fact, more than half of all Jewish Day School students currently receive scholarship funds, compared with one-third last year. Up 59 percent are requests for hardship scholarships, which help families to bridge the gap between what they already receive in tuition support and what they are able to pay. More than $275,000 in such hardship scholarships have been awarded this year.

Holly is a single parent who greatly appreciates Federation’s assistance with her child’s Day School tuition. In a letter of appreciation, she wrote, “Learning about the Jewish holidays, learning prayers, and learning to read Hebrew — all while receiving an education in a nurturing environment — are imperative for keeping traditions alive from generation to generation. Without scholarships now, my daughter’s Jewish education would not have been possible. I am extremely grateful.”

Botwinick agreed that these scholarships are making a big difference in many lives. “Yet,” he said, “the demand for scholarships today outweighs the supply of funds available.”

Gary Bomzer, Executive Director of the Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center on the Sanford L. Ziff Campus in North Miami Beach, is also well-aware of the difficulties people are experiencing. “As the economic downturn continues, we are receiving many requests for assistance from people struggling to care for their families,” Bomzer said.

This past year, $600,000 in afterschool, daycare and day camp scholarships were provided through Federation-funded JCCs in North Dade, South Dade and Miami Beach. “These scholarships enable parents to provide a safe and caring environment for their children so that they can go to work — or look for employment,” said Bomzer.

“It is gratifying to know that we offer real solutions to people in need during these very serious times,” said Barbara Black Goldfarb, Federation General Campaign Chair. “To be able to provide transportation assistance so an 80-year-old Holocaust survivor can go to the grocery store or a doctor’s appointment … to provide preschool and summer camp for a three-year-old whose father is undergoing treatment for a malignant brain tumor … to help a displaced real estate appraiser keep the roof over his head … This is what Federation is here to do, in ordinary times and in extraordinary times like these.

“We launched the 2010 Federation/UJA Campaign in a challenging economic environment,” she continued. “But because every life is important, we must do all we can to raise the dollars necessary to help. That requires the participation of everyone in our community. Every single dollar makes a difference.”

If you are able to make a gift to the 2010 Greater Miami Jewish Federation/UJA Campaign, please use the reply envelope inside this Donor News. Or, make your donation quickly and securely online at JewishMiami.org/DonorNews. For further assistance, call 305-576-4000. Thank you.

Greater Miami Jewish Federation

In these challenging times, the Jewish community is here for you.

If you or someone you know is in need of:

- EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
- FOOD
- FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING
- REHABILITATION
- EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE
- HOME HEALTH CARE
- STRESS MANAGEMENT
- DOMESTIC ABUSE ASSISTANCE
- ADDICTION COUNSELING
- BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

...we can help.

Call the Jewish community’s 24-hour helpline at 305-576-6550.

Administered by Jewish Community Services of South Florida, this confidential helpline is staffed by knowledgeable and experienced professionals who are ready to guide you to the services and information you need.

Connect with your community at JewishMiami.org
DURING THE LAST 18 MONTHS, as the domestic economy has created increased needs in Miami’s Jewish community, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation/UJA Campaign has focused on caring for the most vulnerable in our local community, but without diminishing our steadfast commitment to Jewish people in Israel and around the world.

Working with our overseas partners — the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) — and thanks to the support of thousands of generous donors, Federation has been able to honor the sacred notion that all Jews are responsible for one another. We continue to keep the promise we make daily to feed the hungry and to care for those in need among us without turning our back on the people of Israel and Jews spanning the globe.

As Miami’s Jewish community embarks on the 2010 Federation/UJA Campaign, here is a look at how your dollars are helping Jews in need of assistance around the world.

**Ethiopian Israelis**

There are approximately 120,000 Ethiopian Israelis in Israel facing unique challenges and experiencing many problems, such as a higher incidence of unemployment, poverty, substance abuse and family violence.

- 70 percent are defined as poor, compared to 16 percent of the general Jewish population
- 49 percent have eight years or fewer of education

Since 2005, the Federation has been engaged in an initiative to assist the Ethiopian Israeli community in the city of Pardes Channa-Karkur. In addition to our regular annual funding of $297,800 to the partnership initiative in Pardes Channa-Karkur and $30,000 to the Ethiopian National Project (ENP), Federation allocated an extra $26,000 above our regular funding to keep the scholastic assistance program (SPACE) operating there. This program provides afterschool tutoring, workshops, mentoring and enrichment in small groups. Quantitative studies indicate that 80 percent of students enrolled in the SPACE program passed matriculation exams, including 50 percent at university level. In Pardes Channa-Karkur, SPACE positively impacted the grades of the participating students, while 13 out of the 15 Ethiopian seniors graduated with full matriculation.

**Elderly in the Former Soviet Union**

With the collapse of the Soviet system, free health and medical services for the elderly are no longer available. JDC’s ability to provide assistance has been impeded by inflation and the fact that overseas allocations by Jewish Federations, the largest supporters of welfare services to non-Nazi victims, have been reduced as a result of the downturn in the U.S. economy.

Working through JDC-developed Hesed welfare centers as the headquarters for service delivery, Federation is helping to ensure that seniors can live with dignity by providing adequate food and nutrition; medicine and medical care; home care; winter relief; and much more. These critical humanitarian services are a vital lifeline to thousands of destitute, elderly Jews.

Federation funding provided $252,000 in welfare relief through JDC Hesed services, which reached 167,920 elderly Jewish clients in the FSU at 2,824 locations.

**Youth at Risk in Yerucham**

Addressing the needs of nearly 180 children at risk in Miami’s partnership city of Yerucham, Youth Futures is making inroads, helping children achieve greater academic success and developing socially and personally.

Fourteen young adults serve as Youth Futures role models, or Trustees, for the children. They provide assistance, helping the children develop motivation, self-esteem, and self-confidence. In turn, those qualities lead to improved learning achievements, fostering skills for setting and achieving goals. Each Trustee is responsible for 15 children and works with each child on an individual basis, as well as in a group setting.

Federation allocated $139,500 to this initiative. These funds are matched by JAFI and Israeli philanthropists.

To learn more about Federation’s work in Israel and overseas, please contact Dahlia Bendavid, Israel and Overseas Department Director, at 786.866.8445 or dbendavid@gmjf.org.
THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN has created unprecedented strain on the agencies that provide a safety net of social services to individuals and families in need in the Jewish community (see story on page 3). At a time when more people are calling for assistance, these nonprofit agencies are also facing drastic cuts in government funding, among other challenges.

Committed to helping our beneficiary agencies come to the aid of the most vulnerable, the Board of Directors of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation took extraordinary measures this year to increase funding to these agencies through a special $854,000 grant from The Foundation of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

Each year, a portion of The Foundation’s investment yield is directed to the Federation and our UJA Campaign to support social-service needs at home and abroad. However, this time, some of The Foundation’s underlying principal was tapped to provide increased funding. In ordinary times, Foundation funds are reserved for specific purposes, but these are extraordinary times. Federation leadership decided to minimize the impact of anticipated budget cuts to our partner agencies through this special grant, enabling our community to remain steadfast to our longstanding commitment to Jews in need.

This infusion of Foundation funds will go far to help the most vulnerable people in the Jewish community, providing food, emergency financial assistance, employment and emotional counseling, home healthcare support, daycare scholarships and more during the 2009-10 fiscal year.

According to Donna Blaustein, Chair of The Foundation, this extraordinary allocation of funds is a direct response to the desires of the individuals, families and foundations who donated them. “These dollars come from the Federation’s unrestricted endowment,” she explained. “The donors trusted us to put their resources to work for the most worthy purposes. I can’t think of any more worthy purpose than addressing some of the overwhelming hardships in our community.”

“Our community is so blessed to have a significant unrestricted endowment in The Foundation,” said Barbara Black Goldfarb, Federation’s General Campaign Chair and a former Chair of The Foundation. “With the welfare of so many hanging in the balance, our Foundation and its investors have come to the rescue for those in desperate need. And while we are addressing new and emerging local needs, we are able to remain steadfast to our long-standing commitment to helping Jews in need in Israel and around the world.”

To learn how you can create a lasting Jewish legacy for your community, please contact Steve Lande, Foundation Director, at 786-866-8623 or foundation@gmjf.org.
WITH A MISSION TO “EDUCATE, ENGAGE, ACT,” the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) — the policy and advocacy branch of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation — works to provide individuals with tools to lobby on behalf of the Jewish people and the local community on matters of social justice. Among the many issues JCRC is focusing on: Iran’s quest for nuclear weapons and the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

Pressuring Through Divestment Legislation
The JCRC is actively pursuing strategies that impose economic pressure on Iran and its government. Working with a broad coalition of volunteer leadership, community organizations and elected officials in Miami-Dade County and across the state of Florida, the JCRC helped to secure the passage of “The Protecting Florida’s Investment Act,” which requires the divestment of state pension funds from companies financially tied to Iran and Sudan.

The success of this action set a model for local communities to follow. At the JCRC’s urging, the cities of Aventura, Miami Beach, Miami and Miami Gardens passed resolutions supporting divestment, joining the Village of Pinecrest, which already had this policy in place. The JCRC is approaching several additional municipalities in Miami-Dade County on this issue.

Promoting Genocide Awareness and Terror-Free Investing
As the humanitarian crisis continues in Darfur — and with the goal of preventing genocide — the JCRC is working to educate Miami residents about factors that foster terrorism. The JCRC coordinated South Florida’s participation in the launch of Genocide Prevention Month in April by hosting a panel at Miami Dade College comprising government officials, scholars, survivors, activists, clergy and the JCRC’s partners in the Miami Coalition to Save Darfur.

The JCRC is also increasing its efforts to inform the community about ethical investing. A program in June featured Eric Cohen, Co-Founder and Chair of Investors Against Genocide, a nonprofit organization dedicated to convincing mutual funds and investment firms to change their investing strategy to avoid complicity in genocide. Cohen provided details on how individuals can ensure that their investments do not aid countries like Sudan and Iran.

The JCRC is chaired by Regina F. Zelonker. To learn how you can become involved with the JCRC, e-mail CommunityRelations@gmjf.org or call 786.866.8485.

At a JCRC breakfast meeting with the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation in October, leadership from the Federation and our partner agencies shared concerns about social justice and funding issues affecting the Jewish community. They acknowledged their appreciation for efforts by the Miami-Dade Delegation, including its strong support for the State of Israel. (Left to right) Jacob Solomon, Federation President and CEO; State Rep. Luis Garcia; Hon. Ofer Bavly, Consul General of Israel to Florida and Puerto Rico; Norman Braman, a Federation Past President; Morrie Siegel, Event Co-Chair and Federation Board Member; State Rep. David Rivera; State Rep. Yolly Roberson; Regina Zelonker, JCRC Chair; State Senator Dan Gelber; State Senator Nan Rich; William Lehman, Jr., Federation Board Chair; State Rep. Juan Zapata; State Rep. Carlos Lopez-Cantera; State Rep. Ronald Brisé; State Senator Rudy Garcia; State Rep. Richard Steinberg; State Rep. Juan-Carlos Planas; Hon. Elaine Bloom, Event Co-Chair and Federation Board Member

Connect with your community at JewishMiami.org
THE JEWISH VOLUNTEER CENTER of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation invites you and your family to spend December 25 with us for the second annual Jewish Community Volunteer Day sponsored by Ford Motor Company.

Nearly a dozen different volunteer projects are being organized throughout Miami-Dade County, including opportunities at the Salvation Army, the Miami Rescue Mission and the Community Partnership for the Homeless. Students may earn volunteer hours. In addition, the Jewish Chaplaincy Program of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation will host visits to the sick at Miami Heart Institute, and the Israel and Overseas Department of the Federation will organize a winter sock and hat drive for Israeli soldiers.

For more information, please contact JVC Director Lori Drutz at 786.866.8414 or volunteer@gmjf.org.

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2010 / 5771 High Holiday Card Contest

2009 / 5770 card by Leslie Benarroch of Rabbi Alexander S. Gross Hebrew Academy

FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE) are holding a High Holiday art contest for students in 4th through 8th grades. The winning design will be featured as the 2010 / 5771 Federation High Holiday card that will be sent to the entire community.

More than 400 entries were received this year, making the contest a real winner in its own right.

Winners will be chosen in the winter by Federation’s Agency, Day School and Synagogue Committee and Board of Directors. The top three finalists will be recognized at a special ceremony and on JewishMiami.org. For more information, please call Laura Rodriguez, Senior Community Development Associate, at 786.866.8680.

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Connect with your community at JewishMiami.org
Let’s go to Israel!

“ISRAEL: UP CLOSE & PERSONAL MISSION”
March 8 – 16, 2010
Fran and Robert Berrin, Mission Chairs

JOIN US on an unforgettable one-week mission to Israel filled with exciting adventures, stirring experiences and cultural discoveries. Get exclusive insider access to Israel’s residents, community leaders, military experts and political personalities.

The mission includes:
- 6 nights at five-star deluxe hotels in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv
- 6 days of touring, including special programming and events such as a visit to an army base and intelligence unit, meetings with top Israeli officials and speakers, travel to Sde Boker to meet with scientists who are developing the Negev, visit to the Supreme Court, and more.

Enjoy a family-friendly itinerary, deluxe accommodations at Israel’s finest hotels with visits to museums, archeological sites and a Kibbutz experience, as well as a Bedouin desert extravaganza, a dinner with IDF soldiers, and more. Celebrate your child’s becoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah in Israel with your rabbi and community. Travel aboard air-conditioned motor coaches with private tour guides and youth counselors. Participate in hands-on volunteer activities. Experience fantastic outdoor adventures, including rafting, ATV rides, ziplining, rappelling and so much more.

*Participating congregations as of 11/09.

“WOMEN WITH A MISSION ON A MISSION”
CARING ~ CONNECTING ~ CELEBRATING
EXPERIENCE THE RICHNESS OF OUR SPIRITUAL HOMELAND WITH A FOCUS ON WOMEN
April 13 – 20, 2010
Julie Russin Bercow, President, Women’s Department, and Hedy Whitebook, Chair, Women’s Amutot Initiative Committee

Caring
- Feel the solemnity of Yom HaZikaron (Remembrance Day) with Female Lone Soldiers
- See the impact of funding by the Greater Miami Jewish Federation/UJA Annual Campaign on social-service agencies dedicated to women’s causes

Connecting
- Create meaningful connections with other Miami women
- Meet, interact, support and be inspired by the women of Israel

Celebrating
- Participate in the excitement of Yom Ha’Atzmaut (Independence Day)
- Visit a winery, participate in a marzipan workshop, and enjoy a special chef’s tour of Machane Yehuda market, a cheese farm and more

“You ARE FAMILy”
NORTH DADE MISSION TO ISRAEL
June 13 – 24, 2010
A Community Partnership of aventura turnberry Jewish Center, Beth Torah Benny Rok Campus, Temple Sinai of North Dade, and other area synagogues, together with the Greater Miami Jewish Federation*

MAKE A JOURNEY to Israel even more special by joining Rabbi Jonathan Berkun, Rabbi Alan Litwak, Rabbi Mario Rojzman, and other rabbinic leadership in our community, as well as your neighbors, for this fabulous mission. Share the company of close friends from your own synagogue while traveling with other families from North Dade.

Enjoy a family-friendly itinerary, deluxe accommodations at Israel’s finest hotels with visits to museums, archeological sites and a Kibbutz experience, as well as a Bedouin desert extravaganza, a dinner with IDF soldiers, and more. Celebrate your child’s becoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah in Israel with your rabbi and community. Travel aboard air-conditioned motor coaches with private tour guides and youth counselors. Participate in hands-on volunteer activities. Experience fantastic outdoor adventures, including rafting, ATV rides, ziplining, rappelling and so much more.

*Participating congregations as of 11/09.

“HISTORICALLY CONTEMPORARY MITZVAH TOUR”
SOUTH DADE SUMMER FAMILY MISSION
June 13 – 23, 2010
Larry and Tracey Spiegelman, Co-Chairs
Rabbi Terry Bookman, Temple Beth Am
Cantor Mark Kula, Bet Shira Congregation

JOIN THE GREATER MIAMI JEWISH FEDERATION, your friends and neighbors and your community clergy for the South Dade Summer Family Mission to Israel. This family-friendly mission features Israel’s finest accommodations, a Kibbutz experience, veteran tour guides, youth counselors, most meals and much more! Fulfill your family’s dream in Jerusalem with a group B’nai Mitzvah. Take part in a modern trip through Israel and Jewish history. Enjoy life-changing moments with friends and family as we explore the Western Wall and underground tunnels in Jerusalem; visit with Ethiopian Jews and our partnership city of Yerucham; tour Tzfat (Safed), the highest city in Israel and a major center of Kabbalah; and participate in water and nature activities, including ziplining and rafting. Other itinerary highlights include participating in an archeological dig, riding through the Golan Heights in ATVs and Jeeps, and an optional trip to Masada and the Dead Sea.

HOW CAN ONE TINY COUNTRY contain so many well-known sites and still have room for so many unexpected delights? Discover an Israel that is spontaneous and seductive by joining hundreds of people just like you from Miami and across North America on a fun, meaningful and life-changing experience.

Federation missions are the most exciting way to see Israel, either as a first-timer or as a seasoned visitor. The Greater Miami Jewish Federation will be offering limited subsidies to those eligible who live or work in Miami-Dade County. All participants will be asked to support Jewish social services at home, in Israel and around the world by making a suggested minimum gift of $500 (tax-deductible) to the 2011 Greater Miami Jewish Federation/UJA Campaign payable through December 2011.

National registration will open in 2010. If you live or work in Miami-Dade County, please contact Katy Boyask, The Network Director, at kboyask@gmjf.org or 786.866.8444 to add your name to the local waiting list.
Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for these important community events.

**Sunday, March 7, 2010**
Super Sunday
9:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Greater Miami Jewish Federation
4200 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami

**Tuesday, March 23, 2010**
26th Annual Judicial Reception
5:30 PM
Hilton Miami Downtown
1601 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami

**Thursday, June 3, 2010**
72nd Annual Meeting
5:00 PM
Hilton Miami Downtown
1601 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami
Honoring: William Lehman, Jr., Chair of the Board, Greater Miami Jewish Federation

For more information, please call 786.866.8416.

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**There is Comfort in Community.**

On February 4, more than 1,200 members of Miami’s Jewish community will join together to help bring comfort and hope to so many vulnerable individuals and families in Miami who are hurting during these uncertain economic times. Please be there for your Jewish community. Please be there with your Jewish community.

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**The Main Event**

Gary & Niety Gerson, Chairs

Thursday, February 4, 2010
Join us for dinner at 6:00 P.M.
Hilton Miami Downtown
1601 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami

Featuring

Elie Wiesel
Author, teacher, and Nobel Laureate

Keynote Speaker

Honoring

Isaac Olemberg with the 2010 Greater Miami Jewish Federation Friend of Israel Humanitarian Award

Couvert (not tax-deductible) $90 per person

A $1,000 suggested minimum gift to the 2010 Greater Miami Jewish Federation/UJA Campaign is requested. Members of the community under age 30 are invited to attend with a suggested minimum gift of $365.


For more information, please call 786.866.8416. You may also RSVP online at JewishMiami.org.

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**The PJ Library**

The PJ Library is a free program, presented by the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, that promotes a love of reading while sharing Jewish values and traditions.

Register online today at JewishMiami.org/PJLibrary to receive free Jewish-content books and music each month for your children under age 5.

The PJ Library is funded nationally in partnership with The Harold Grinspoon Foundation and locally by the Blank Family Foundation. The PJ Library is a program of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.