



Suncoast Jewish Alliance Newsletter

February–March 2026

Upcoming Events

Living Room Conversation & Potluck Dinner

An evening of thoughtful conversation led by David Kaufman, exploring the Art of War and its relevance today.

 Tuesday, February 15th, 5pm

Embracing our Differences:

Join us for a meaningful, guided tour of Embracing our differences with Sarah Wertheimer and Rabbi Jennifer Singer. exhibit

 Tuesday, March 17th, 5pm

Living Room Conversation & Potluck Dinner

- 🏠 A warm, relaxed evening of thoughtful conversation
- 🎤 Led by David Kaufman, exploring *The Art of War*
✨ ☀️ and its relevance today



Living Room Conversation & Potluck Dinner

An Evening of Thoughtful Dialogue with **David Kaufman**



Topic: ***The Art of War***

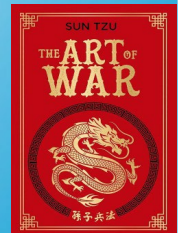
Sunday, February 15 • 5:00 PM



Hosted by Julie & Don Friedman



Please bring a favorite dish to share



Tuesday, February 15th



RSVP: suncoastjewishalliance1@gmail.com



Tuesday, March 17

🎨 Join us for a dynamic, guided experience of the *Embracing Our Differences* exhibit, led by **Sarah Wertheimer**, Executive Director of EOD, and **Rabbi Jennifer Singer**.

💡 Explore powerful artwork through the lens of Jewish ethics and values, while discovering the stories and voices behind the artists.



Come for a Walking Tour of the Outdoor Exhibit at
Sarasota Bayfront



**Embracing Our Differences
through a Jewish Lens**

Tour and Discussion led by
Rabbi Jennifer Singer

Tuesday March 17, 2026, starting at 5 pm

5 Bayfront Drive, Sarasota

Please RSVP to suncoastjewishalliance@gmail.com

🌟📅 **Tuesday, March 17th**

🔔📧 **RSVP:** suncoastjewishalliance1@gmail.com



☀️ **Get Involved — Help Us Expand Our Reach**

We invite you to be part of our growing community and help amplify our impact:

- 🤝 **Join a committee** — Programming, Education, Immigration, Communications, or Fundraising
- 🔔 **Spread the word** and help us welcome new members
- 🏠 **Host a Living Room Conversation** in your home
- 🏛️ **Invite us to present** in the community or at partner organizations

Your voice, your space, and your involvement make a difference.

✉️ **RSVP:** suncoastjewishalliance@gmail.com

Annual Meeting Recap

Our Annual Meeting was a great success, with strong participation both in person at the home of **Joel and Felicia Servetz** and on Zoom. Members elected new officers and approved the revised bylaws. The evening concluded with a warm potluck dinner and music by **Cantor Neil Teibel** and **Julie Friedman**.

Annual Membership Meeting



Mazal Tov to Our New Board of Directors

With gratitude and excitement, we welcome our new Board of Directors. Their willingness to step into leadership reflects a deep commitment to community, shared values, and collective responsibility.

Name	Title
Norman Olshansky	President
Julie Friedman	Vice President
Wendy Wicks	Secretary
Lisa Barzel	Treasurer
Uzi Baram	Program Chair
Mark Blaweiss	Member at Large
Marcy Bernstein	Member at Large

Recent Programs

We jointly sponsored a program on Book Banning with Temple Emanu-El



We made a presentation to Kol Ami Congregation in Tampa



We had a presence at the rally at the School Board against the resolution to support ICE



Other Programs of Interest:

CHABAD OF VENICE AND NORTH PORT PRESENTS IN COMMEMORATION OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

A MORNING WITH SORA VIGORITO

YOUNGEST KNOWN SURVIVOR OF MENGELE'S EXPERIMENTAL TWINS

A historic opportunity to hear a surviving voice from Auschwitz's infamous "Angel of Death"

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 4, 10:00 AM
Doors Open: 9:30 AM

VENICE COMMUNITY CENTER
396 NOKOKIMS AVE, VENICE FL 34285

NEVER AGAIN!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR
GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

TICKETS: ChabadOfVenice.com/Tickets

The poster features a background image of the Auschwitz concentration camp with train tracks leading into the distance. A portrait of Sora Vigorito, a smiling woman with short blonde hair and glasses, is overlaid on the right side. The Chabad Venice logo is in the top left corner.

BUILDING BRIDGES
Spring 2026 Discussion Series

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN-JEWISH CIVIL RIGHTS ALLIANCE SHARED LEGACIES

Join Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., Civil Rights leader and former NAACP Executive Director, and Rabbi Dr. Judy Schindler, Professor of Jewish Studies and Executive Director of Spill the Honey Foundation, for an inspiring film screening and conversation about the Black-Jewish partnership that helped shape the Civil Rights Movement—and offers hope and guidance in today's divided present.

**February 5, 2026
7:00 PM**
Unitarian Universalists of Sarasota

Free & open to all. Space is limited. Please register.
BoxerDiversityInitiative.org

WATCH THE TRAILER

SAVE YOUR SEAT

Our Partners

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL
Jewish Center of Longboat Key

cata
Catholic American Temple of the Arts

BOXER DIVERSITY INITIATIVE
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Sarasota County
Presenting Sponsor

"Powerful and inspiring." —World Jewish Congress

Advocates for Constitutional Values ACV
Upholding our American constitutional rights and values through empowering the respectful exchange of information and ideas.

Come and hear about the mission and work of the Immigration Justice Coalition of Southwest Florida

Presented by:
Barbara Smith-Bacon
Chair of the Coalition's Education Team

The Immigration Justice Coalition of Southwest Florida is a community of people who advocates for and supports our immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seeking neighbors.

**Sunday - February 15, 2026
2:00—3:30 p.m.**
First Congregational UCC
1031 S. Euclid Ave, Sarasota FL 34237

Guests are welcome - Bring a friend!
As there are costs related to our meetings, we kindly request a \$3—\$5 minimum donation per person.

Advocates for Constitutional Values is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization open to anyone interested in addressing current political issues and finding solutions.

For more information, please contact AdvocatesACV@gmail.com.

FACE TO FACE
In A Divided America

A discussion between a Muslim and a Jewish Attorney about shared goals in troubled times

It will not be easy, but the time has come to explore how to communicate effectively and end the isolation and scapegoating of "the other" that can only lead to conspiracy theories and more hate.

Sunday, February 15, 2026 | 6:30 PM
Unitarian Universalists of Sarasota
3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota, FL 34232

Join us for a moderated discussion with the authors of I AM THE OTHER, **Imam Azhar Subedar**, an Islamic Scholar, and **Robert Gary**, a member of Temple Beth Israel of Longboat Key and a former prosecutor with the US Justice Department. A dessert reception will follow.

An evening dedicated to honest dialogue, dignity, and the power of human connection, recognizing that disagreement is not a threat and coexistence doesn't require we think alike.

RSVP REQUIRED BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12.
Limited Seating - Reserve to save your spot!
Contact: eventsuucs@gmail.com

Register Below!

ZOA
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
FLORIDA

ZOA Florida invites you to our upcoming event with
AVI ABELOW
Host of The Pulse of Israel daily
CEO of 12Tribe Films Foundation
Founder & Senior Editor
IsraelUnWired.com

FROM MISSILES TO MIRACLES
Event Chair: Brent Rubin

Monday, February 16 | 7:30 PM
Location: Bradenton, FL
(exact location sent after registration)

No cost to attend.
To register, please visit:
www.zoa.org/events
Sponsorship opportunities listed in link above.

Questions?
Contact Allison Zur:
azur@zoa.org

A compelling insider's briefing on Israel's war and the worldwide eruption of Jew-hatred that followed October 7th. A must-hear presentation for anyone seeking clarity, courage, and truth in a time of rising hostility toward the Jewish people.

FEB 17
7:00PM

AN EVENING WITH FORMER HOSTAGE COUPLE KEITH & AVIVA SIEGEL

RIPPED APART & REUNITED

Keith and Aviva Siegel were abducted from their home in Kibbutz Kfar Aza during a Hamas attack. They endured brutal conditions in captivity: Aviva for 51 days, and Keith for 484 days, making him **ONE OF AMERICA'S LONGEST-HELD HOSTAGES.**

Keith faced isolation and deprivation, while Aviva endured hunger and fear, witnessing torture and sexual violence. Despite unimaginable trauma, they survived and now speak out to raise **AWARENESS ABOUT RESILIENCE AND THE FIGHT AGAINST TERROR.**

EVENT TAKING PLACE
February 17 at 7:00pm
The Ora at the Morganroth Event Center
578 McIntosh Rd, Sarasota, FL 34232

If you have questions, contact Carol Dierksen at cdierksen@fedsrq.org or 941-263-4974

RESERVE NOW
fedsrq.org/events

Suggested donation of \$18 to support October 7 trauma relief

Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

**Beyond the Classroom:
Key Issues Shaping Education
in Sarasota County Schools**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026
5:45-7:00 pm Gulf Gate Library
Sarasota, Florida

Learn more and register lwvsrq.org/events

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SARASOTA COUNTY

Donate and Make Sure No Neighbor Goes To Bed Hungry

"FOOD FOR OUR NEIGHBORS" FOOD DRIVE

We are hosting a food drive to collect essential items for local families and individuals in need. Every donation brings us closer to building a hunger-free future.

Where to Donate:
Food Drop-off Location
Church of the Trinity MCC
7225 Lockwood Ridge Rd.,
Sarasota, FL

Collection Dates
Sunday: 9am-1pm
Mon - Thur: 9am - 5pm

Monetary donations
<https://ppay.co/cvNSqZu1G0>

Scan QR Code

Non-Perishable Food

- Rice
- Beans
- Oil, salt, sugar
- Masera, flour, tortilla shells
- Pasta, pasta sauce
- Peanut butter
- Juices (incl. kid's)
- Cereals, Pancakes, Syrup
- Oatmeal
- Bread, hotdog buns, bagels
- Chips

Childcare Essentials

- NIDO Milk
- Baby wipes
- Diapers sizes 1 - 7

Household Goods

- Body soap
- Dish soap, laundry detergent
- Toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels, Napkins
- Aluminum foil

CHURCH OF THE TRINITY MCC

Suncoast Partnership

Volunteers Needed

Each year, communities across the nation conduct a count of those experiencing homelessness on a single night in their community. The survey information collected during the PIT count provides the community, HUD, and other organizations with a valuable snapshot of data to help analyze community trends and needs for those experiencing homelessness. The PIT Count will take place on Monday, January 26, 2026. Surveys of clients will be conducted on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., asking where individuals slept on the night of January 26.

Volunteers are needed to conduct surveys in the community, as well as assist with data entry once the surveys are completed.

If you are interested in volunteering, please scan the QR code below and fill out the form completely, and we will be in touch with you. Thank you!

QR Code

Renew Your Membership and/or Make a
Donation---Check out our Website at
<http://suncoastjewishalliance.org>

