



**Suncoast Jewish Alliance
Newsletter
September-October 2025**



We wish you a sweet and joyful New Year filled with peace, health and happiness.



As Florida “season” approaches, the Alliance calendar gets busier than ever with programs we create for our members and with our community programming collaborators. Here are a few recent examples:

Bay Plaza Jewish Group
Jewish War Veterans of Nokomis
Temple Beth Sholom Men’s Club and Education Committee
Cascades Jewish Club
Temple Emanuel Program on Book Banning (coming in January 2026)
Jewish Congregation of Venice

? Do you know a group that might be interested in programs provided by the Alliance?
Contact us via suncoastjewishalliance@gmail.com to begin our mutual exploration.

We are pleased that *The Observer* and *The Herald Tribune* continue to publish Alliance editorials and letters to the editor. Look for one about Turning Point USA this weekend.

We encourage Alliance members to speak out about issues that concern you, notably about proposed policies and practices in the public domain that are contrary to our Jewish values. Keep in mind that the Alliance is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, advocacy group. Even on highly emotionally-charged topics, we want to keep open the doors of respectful conversation, give-and-take, and sharing of ideas. If you would like help with writing letters to the editors, op-eds, activity proposals and collaborations, please contact us at suncoastjewishalliance@gmail.com.



Planning for the Future



Take part in our donor match program through the end of this year!

A very generous donor is matching any gift up to \$2,000, over and above the basic membership of \$18 per person. Help us achieve this short-term financial goal! Tax-free donations can be made on our website (suncoastjewishalliance.com) or mailed to the Alliance at P.O. Box 5244, Sarasota, Florida 34277



Weekly Demonstrations to bring home the Israeli Hostages



Come join Alliance members and many other of our Sarasota neighbors at the weekly demonstrations on behalf of the Israeli Hostages in Gaza. We gather for 20-30 minutes, 10am Saturdays at the downtown Sarasota Farmers Market, and on Sundays at 6pm in front of 481 Ringling Blvd on St Armand's Circle.



27 OCT
MON
6:00PM

An evening with
OMER SHEM TOV
Hostage Survivor and Activist

Join us for an inspiring evening as Omer reflects on his harrowing journey through **505** days of captivity, his release, recovery, and his unwavering advocacy for the hostages still held today.

Sponsored by:

In Partnership with:

The Ora - 578 McIntosh Rd.
Sarasota, FL 34232
FREE - RSVP required

TO REGISTER, VISIT:
www.OmerInSarasota.com

Special thanks to: Arad Social, Impact Suncoast, LLC, and Three North Management/
Allison & Matt Branson

For more information: GiselePintchuck@yahoo.com

Content may not be suitable for young audiences

Omer Shem Tov Speaks at the Ora

On October 27, 2025, a free of charge Alliance co-sponsored program with Israeli Omer Shem Tov is scheduled at the ORA. Omer spent 505 days captive by Hamas. The required preregistration is already ***sold out***. The Alliance has requested additional seating and if they become available, the organizers will contact members on their waiting list directly. All participants will be screened for security purpose; photo ID-and ticket required.

Alliance Leadership at Work



Pictured left to right: Norman Olshansky, David Kaufman on zoom, Wendy Wicks, Karen Kade, Julie Friedman and Uzi Baram. Not pictured are Lisa Barzell and Tess Koncick.

Just like any nonprofit organization, the Alliance is always looking for members to join our leadership team. Elections happen in January, so now is the time to be thinking of nominations (including of yourself) for the board, committee work and special projects.



Christian Responsibility to Fight Antisemitism

Rev. Dr. Wes Bixby, First Congregational United Church of Christ Sarasota, led a fascinating evening of lively discussion at our September 14th Living Room Conversation (captured in the photos above). Many thanks to Sheila and Chuck Weiss for hosting this program at their home in the Meadows.



We are already scheduling our members-only Living Room Conversations into 2026; we are asking for members to open their homes for these casual gatherings. Alliance board members coordinate registrations and the potluck arrangements. Hosts customarily provide seating and tables, paper and plasticware for sharing food and schmoozing. Most LRC's have encompassed 18 to 22 members, but we are happy to accommodate smaller groups if that would work best for you.

? Would you be interested in planning or hosting a Living Room Conversation? Perhaps you have access to a free meeting space at your clubhouse or in your building? Contact us at

The Alliance continues to be actively engaged with the IJCSWF Executive Committee. Photos below are from their recent event co-sponsored with Lutheran Services Florida highlighting the art and talent within the refugee community and a panel discussion on the plight of immigrants locally. Alliance members Wendy and Conrad Wicks enjoyed the Refugee Artist Presentation on September 12th



Programs offered by Alliance Collaborators (links are on our website)



Information about the Gallant event is available at the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee or by emailing info@jfedsrq.org.



PEN

SARASOTA

Public Education Network

INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS:

THE PROMISES AND POSSIBILITIES OF

SARASOTA'S DISTRICT SCHOOLS

November 8, 2025

9am-12:30pm

Venice United Church of Christ

620 Shamrock Blvd

Venice, FL 34293

JOIN US for a powerful half-day event exploring the history, impact, and future of Sarasota's public schools. Hear from local leaders, engage in thoughtful discussions, and learn how to advocate for the strong, equitable education our students deserve.

✓ Free & Open to the Public

📄 Materials & resources available

Let's protect the promise of public education—together.

For more information, contact: jill@pensarasota.org

SCAN HERE





SURE Protests Deportations



Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE) organizes weekly prayer vigils on Sundays 5:00–6:00pm at Payne Park Pavilion, downtown Sarasota, in solidarity with concurrent vigils outside the Big Cypress Detention Center (*a.k.a.*, Alligator Alcatraz). SURE invites all people of faith and conscience to participate in these prayer vigils and publicly oppose the expansion of Florida's detention and deportation machine. The organization urges elected officials to invest in community-based solutions such as legal assistance, affordable housing, trauma-informed care and reunification of families.

DONATE TO MAKE SURE NO
NEIGHBOR GOES TO BED HUNGRY

FOOD FOR OUR NEIGHBORS COMIDAS PARA NUESTROS VECINOS



**Many people in our
community are unable to
leave their homes.**

**Food for Neighbors collects
and distributes food to
people at their homes.**

Where to Donate:

Unitarian Universalists of
Sarasota (UUSRQ)
Reeb Room-Food Pantry
3975 Fruitville Rd.,
Sarasota 34232

Pantry Open:

Sunday: 10:15am - 2pm
Monday: 9:30am - 11:30am
Thursday: 3pm - 5pm

\$ Donations:

Checks to be made to UUSRQ
Memo Line: Social Justice Food



Be sure to check out our website at: [suncoastjewishalliance.org](https://www.suncoastjewishalliance.org) and our Facebook
Group Page "Suncoast Jewish Alliance":

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1945583362510611> for more information.