

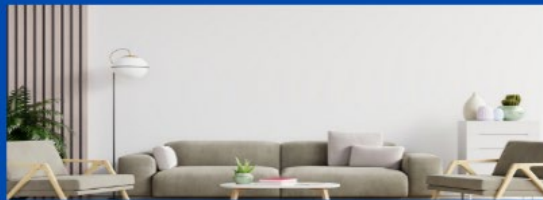
WE RECEIVED LATE UPDATES SINCE THE FIRST EDITION WAS SENT LAST WEEK.



Jewish Values and Ethics in Action

August 2026 Newsletter revised

College is an exciting time filled with opportunities and challenges. Join us as Spencer Cohen, a rising Junior at Florida State University, shares his experiences navigating campus life, his involvement with Hillel, and some interesting work with refugee immigrants.



Sunday, August 16 at 5:00 PM

Hosted by

Norman Olshansky

Potluck Dinner: Bring your favorite dish to share

Please RSVP by August 9 to
suncoastjewishalliance1@gmail.com

Reservations are still available for the Sunday, August 16, 2026

***Living Room Conversation* with FSU student Spencer Cohen in**

The Landings. RVSP this week:

suncoastjewishalliance1@gmail.com.

Let us know you are coming, if you are bringing a guest, & what you'd like to bring for the potluck dinner. Directions will be sent to pre-registrants.

**Christian Nationalism:
A Threat to Our Democracy
Norman Olshansky**

The wall separating church and state is crumbling down. Today, public education is the primary battlefield on church/state issues and Christian nationalism is the leading movement impacting political decisions that threaten our democracy.

Norman Olshansky: President of the Suncoast Jewish Alliance, has spent his entire career working and consulting with not-for-profit organizations including public policy advocacy and work on social justice issues. His background includes being a frequent lecturer at universities and author of a syndicated column. You can often find his commentaries on church/state issues in such newspapers as the Sarasota Herald Tribune.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83167365934?pwd=a0lxYktoM3gwNGVWMGNrcXo5Q0tHUT09>

**Meeting ID: 831 6736 5934
Passcode: 853534**

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**Norm's League of Women's Voters of Florida Education Team
webinar regarding *Christian Nationalism: A Threat to Our
Democracy* will be held on Thursday, August 13, at 5:30pm. You
can join by zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83167365934?pwd=a0lxYktoM3gwNGVWMGNrcXo5Q0tHUT09>

SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, September 6
at 9:00 AM**

**Reverse Tashlich: A
modern Jewish
Environmental practice
that replaces casting
bread into the water with
removing litter from
shorelines, turning
reflection into meaningful
action for our waterways
and marine life.**

On Sunday morning, September 6, 2026 the Suncoast Jewish Alliance joins the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program to share an exciting *Reverse Tashlich* activity at a Venice area beach. This is an action-focused event, where volunteers will engage in a coastal clean up.

Come engage with us in this mitzvah, just before Rosh HaShanah.

**Information on the global program is available at
<https://www.repairthesea.org/>**

Details forthcoming by the end of August.

Recap

Following Carol Lerner's Living Room Conversation, we reflected on the role of public education in our community.

Through thoughtful conversation, we discussed different perspectives, shared insights, and lived our Jewish tradition of engaging ideas with respect and a desire to learn from one another.



Twenty-five Alliance members enjoyed learning from Carol Lerner, Support our Schools, about the significance of the August 18, 2026 Sarasota County School Board election. As usual, we all relished the potluck and schmoozing that preceded and followed Carol's presentation and the question and answer period.

ONE WEBSITE. All the Election Day Info.

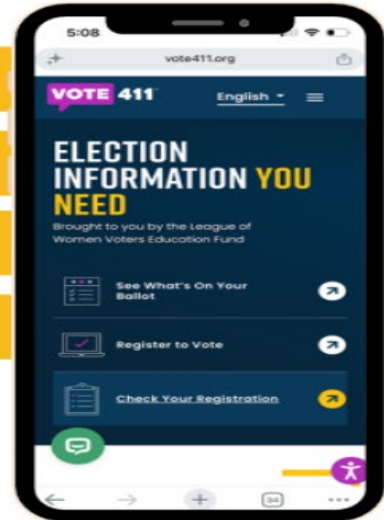
See What's On Your Ballot

Check Your Voter Registration

Find Your Polling Place

...and so much more!

Visit **VOTE411.org**
to prepare for
August 18th.



Visit **VOTE411.org** for
personalized ballot information
based on your address.

Make a plan.
Be there.
Be Counted.



Vote by Mail and Early Voting have begun in Sarasota and Manatee Counties for the August 18, 2026 election of the Sarasota County School Board (for all Sarasota registered voters) and the Florida statewide primaries.

When and how and where will you vote?

Unsure? Visit:

SarasotaVotes.gov or VoteManatee.gov



Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism in Schools and Universities

Dr. Mark Blaiwess, Suncoast Alliance Education Committee Chair

Dr. Blaweiss facilitated a Suncoast Jewish Alliance Living Room Conversation April 2026. The following are excerpts from his "Selected incidents in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom / February-July 2026." Read the entire article on our updated website.

UNITED STATES

Reed College, Oregon - Title VI settlement (July 2026)

Reed College agreed to extensive reforms to resolve two federal civil-rights complaints filed for Jewish students who reported antisemitic attacks, including a smashed mezuzah and a rock thrown through a dormitory window. Reed admitted no wrongdoing but agreed to mandatory training, a Title VI coordinator, independent monitoring and policies recognizing that harassment targeting Jewish students for Zionist identity may be discriminatory.

Read more: www.insidehighered.com - source

Harvard University - federal lawsuit (March 2026)

The U.S. Justice Department sued Harvard, alleging that Jewish and Israeli students were subjected to a hostile environment and that the university failed to respond adequately. Harvard has contested the government's characterization and pointed to reforms and disciplinary changes.

Read more: www.justice.gov - source

UCLA - federal enforcement actions (February and May 2026)

The Justice Department filed actions alleging that UCLA failed to protect Jewish and Israeli employees and students during and after anti-Israel protests. UCLA disputed parts of the allegations and cited new civil-rights, security and protest-management measures.

Read more: apnews.com - source

Columbia University - continuing litigation and divestment protests

Jewish students continued litigation over Columbia's handling of antisemitic harassment, while activists marked anniversaries of the Hamilton Hall occupation and renewed demands for divestment from Israel. A July dispute over legal fees followed a settlement that had provided protections and compensation to Jewish and Israeli students.

Read more: www.reuters.com - source

University of Florida - Republican student chapter deactivated (March 2026)

The university deactivated a College Republicans chapter after reports of antisemitic conduct, including a Nazi-salute controversy. The episode illustrated that campus antisemitism during the period also appeared in right-wing student politics, not only anti-Israel activism.

Read more: apnews.com - source

Cornell University - alleged refusal to work for a Jew (July 2026)

A Cornell student drew national attention after allegedly rejecting a job interview because he did not want to work for a Jewish employer. Cornell said its civil-rights office was reviewing the matter; reporting on any final disciplinary outcome remained incomplete.

Read more: nypost.com - source

Bay District Schools, Florida - civil-rights complaint

A federal complaint alleged that a Jewish high-school student endured repeated antisemitic bullying and that school officials failed to respond adequately. The allegations included concealment of Jewish identity and fear of displaying a Star of David.

Read more: www.adl.org - source

Sequoia Union High School District, California - settlement (June 2026)

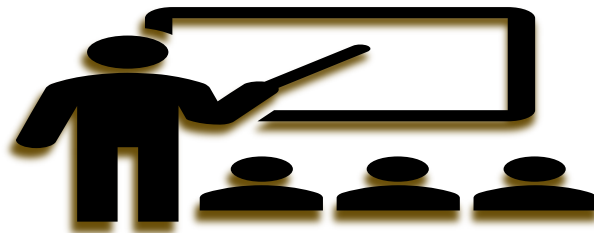
The district reached a reported \$325,000 settlement with families of six Jewish students who alleged a hostile environment at Woodside and Menlo-Atherton high schools following October 7. The agreement included staff training and student education on antisemitism.

Read more: www.rwcpulse.com - source

Scarsdale High School, New York - Israeli Culture Club vandalism

A flyer advertising the school's Israeli Culture Club was reportedly found desecrated in a urinal. Parents criticized the response and argued that targeting an Israel-focused student organization should be treated as antisemitic intimidation.

Read more: www.wfmd.com - source



Check Out Our New Website

<https://suncoastjewishalliance.org>

Get Involved and Let's Build What is Next

Renew Your Membership & or Make a Donation

Norm's List is a free weekly newsletter with selected news items (about Israel, domestic, international, political and sports) of interest to the Jewish community. To receive a copy send a request to suncoastjewishalliance@gmail.com

To unsubscribe from this list, please email
suncoastjewishalliance@gmail.com

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