



# ALLIANCE NEWS

# HAPPY Pesach



VOLUME 34

#08



**Adam Chaskin**  
(904)730-2100  
ext. 272

Shalom Friends,

Spring has sprung throughout the River City and for Jewish people around the world. This time of year begins our preparations for Passover, a reflective time when we open our minds and hearts to our inner life for renewal in pursuit of personal growth. At its core, the reflection we share during Passover marks a sacred time when we begin our work to rejuvenate our minds, bodies and spirits.

I am proud to share with you that positive change and growth remain the focus of our ambitious capital campaign, Building Our Future Together. The excitement is palpable as we work with our campaign leaders on plans to renovate and upgrade our JCA campus so we can continue to be a premiere destination for

residents throughout Jacksonville.

As the people of Israel join in remembrance and celebration of Israel's National Days this April, our Jewish Educator Rachel Sandler and Community Shlichah Tal Mola are diligently working with our partners at the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida to plan community-wide events to honor these holidays. Please reference page 3 for more details on our local celebrations planned for *Yom Ha'Shoah*, Holocaust Remembrance Day (April 17 - 18), *Yom Ha'Zikaron*, Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers of Wars of Israel and Victims of Action of Terrorism (Apr 24 - 25), and *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*, Israel's 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day (Apr 25 - 26).

From culture and arts to swimming and sports, upcoming adventures with the J Institute, and visiting authors with the Jewish Book Council; there are a plethora of incredible programs available for your whole family this season. I encourage you to read every page of this Alliance News and visit our website, [jcajax.org](http://jcajax.org) to discover how you can enrich your lives with us. We cannot wait to share these experiences with you.

I know I speak for our entire JCA family when I say how proud we are that our JCA campus is a place people visit to enhance their lives. I could not be more excited to lead this outstanding organization and flourish with all of you as we celebrate spring.

Chag Pesach Sameach,  
(Happy Passover Holiday)



Adam Chaskin  
CEO

### JCA BUILDING HOURS

<b>Sun</b> .....	8 am – 6 pm
<b>Mon – Thu</b> .....	5:30 am – 9 pm
<b>Fri</b> .....	5:30 am – 5 pm
<b>Sat</b> .....	1 – 6 pm

The JCA Alliance News and Program Guide are published by the:

**Jewish Community Alliance**  
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For additional program information and to register, please contact the JCA.

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Chelsea Jarrell ..... Director of Marketing  
Lee Lemay ..... Graphic Designer  
Beth Milograno..... Communications & PR Specialist

### Kid Kare (babysitting)

(904) 730-2100 ext. 325

Operations hours:

**Sun - Mon** mornings, 9 am - 12 pm  
**Mon - Thu** evenings, 5 - 8 pm

- JCA Kid Kare is available for children 3 months to 9 years old.
- Kid Kare is offered on a first come first serve basis.
- Space limited to 12 children per shift.
- Kid Kare service is for a maximum of 2 hours.
- Visit [jcajax.org/fitness](http://jcajax.org/fitness) for Kid Kare policies.


**TRIBUTES**

*In memory of...*

**BOB NIED**  
by Jill and Paul Metlin  
Rochelle and David Stoddard  
Michele and David Steinfeld

**COLLEEN RODRIGUEZ'S FATHER**  
by Adam and Regina Chaskin  
Bunni and Myron Flagler  
The Miller Families  
The Board and Staff of the JCA

**ILENE SCHINASI'S SISTER, MARILYN**  
by Michele and David Steinfeld

**BOBBY RUBENS**  
by Helen Werking

**HELEN JABEN**  
by Michele Zavon Steinfeld

**NOAH WEXLER**  
by The Spring and Miller Family

**DR. DONALD COHEN**  
by Adam and Regina Chaskin  
The Miller Families  
The Board and Staff of the JCA

*In honor of...*  
**HOWARD KORMAN'S BIRTHDAY**  
by Lois and Alan Chepenik  
**THE BIRTH OF ANNETTE MARIE SWALLEN**  
by The Board and Staff of the JCA

**JORDAN SANDLER'S BAR MITZVAH**  
by Michele Steinfeld

**COLLEEN RODRIGUEZ'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LJD JEWISH FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
by The Board and Staff of the JCA

**JD TYRRELL'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF**  
by The Board and Staff of the JCA

*For a speedy recovery...*

**MYRON FLAGLER**  
by The Board and Staff of the JCA

**Stephanie Green Scholarship Fund**  
*In memory of...*  
**COLLEEN RODRIGUEZ'S FATHER**  
by Nancy and Mark Green

**General donations**  
*Our thanks to...*  
**JOAN WAITZ**  
**ELLEN AND BARRY SETZER**  
**WIATT BOWERS**  
**BARRY MICHELSON**  
**GRACIE GUTMANIS**  
**BARBARA AND JAMES SEGALOFF**



### By Heather Terrill, J Institute Program Manager

Travel. It's a word that I've been drawn to my entire life. The vast landscape of endless possibilities of places to discover. When I think back, some of my fondest memories always are about the people and the shared space on trips with family and friends.

Even as a young girl, I saw myself growing up, bag in hand, ready to go at any moment to the most remote of destinations. It is no wonder that in my adult life, I am drawn to learning about new cultures; the cuisine, the people, the music, the art, the atmosphere, the scenery, and all the little wonders that make a place magical.

I've always felt the pull to be somewhere else, enveloped in the space that surrounds me in that place and time sharing that moment with the people I am with. This is why, I am so proud to share more details with you about our new travel program – **Globe Trotters of the J**.

Starting this fall, I hope you will join me on this new journey with our JCA family. We will venture to Savannah, Georgia for our first trip to take in the beautiful coastal landscapes and breathtaking architecture, and learn more about the city's rich history.

Please be on the lookout for more details about our first three trips!

- 📍 **Savannah, Georgia in the Fall of 2023**
- 📍 **The Pacific Northwest in the Spring of 2024**
- 📍 **A Grand Tour of Italy in the Fall of 2024**

We will host a meeting prior to each adventure for those interested. Once you reserve your spot, we will schedule dinner for the group to get to know each other and talk more about our upcoming travel plans! If you have any questions please email me, [heather.terrill@jcjax.org](mailto:heather.terrill@jcjax.org) or call (904) 730 - 2100 ext. 265.



# Israel National Days

### 🌟 Zikaron BaSalon

Zikaron BaSalon in Hebrew means "Remembrances in the Living Room." This grassroots initiative, based in Israel since 2011, brings together more than 1.5 million people in more than 60 countries to talk with Holocaust survivors or their descendants in intimate, home-based gatherings. This spring, you are invited to join us in Jacksonville at a local home to hear an evening of testimony from a Holocaust survivor. **Please register by Apr 14 to receive the address for the program.**  
**Tue, Apr 18 | 6 pm**  
**Free to the community**

### 🌟 Jewish Film: The Power of Good 2002, 64m, Documentary

To remember the Holocaust, this film tells the story of courage and determination of one man, Nickolas Winton, who saved 669 Czech children from certain death by Hitler and the Nazi's. Join host Sandy Oasis for a light lunch and a film that demonstrates what one person can do. **Please register by Apr 14.**  
**Wed, Apr 19 | 12 pm**  
**Free to the community**

### 🌟 LJD JFCS Holocaust Memorial Gallery Tour

In honor of Yom Ha'Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, come tour the exhibit and hear from a second generation survivor. **Meet at LJD Jewish Family & Community Services, 8540 Baycenter Rd.**  
**Mon, Apr 24 | 10 - 11:30 am**  
**Free to the community**

### 🌟 Yom Ha'Zikaron Ceremony

Yom Ha'Zikaron is the Day of Remembrance for Fallen Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism. In partnership with the **Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida**, our Shlichah Tal Mola, will lead us in a traditional Israeli ceremony to honor this memorial day.  
**Mon, Apr 24 | 6:30 pm**  
**Free to the community**

### 🌟 Yom Ha'Atzmaut Community Celebration

Let's join to celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut at The Temple! Your entire family is invited to our celebration for **Israel's 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day!**  
**Sun, Apr 30 | 12 - 3 pm**  
**Congregation Ahavath Chesed - The Temple**  
**Free to the community**



### Kosher for Passover

Certain dietary practices are respected in observance of Passover. Please be aware, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, eating or drinking non-Passover items is not allowed on the JCA campus. Additionally, the snack vending machine will be turned off and our drink machines will clearly state that Kosher for Passover drinks are not available.

It is important that all members feel comfortable coming to the JCA and especially our Jewish members who follow the dietary laws of Passover. Please ensure that you purchase kosher for Passover snacks before coming to the JCA.

# ♦ ♦ ♦ HAPPY ♦ ♦ ♦ Passover CHAG PESACH SAMEACH!

**By Rachel Sandler, Jewish Educator**

Our Passover holiday commemorates the Israelites' exodus from slavery in Egypt to freedom and many see this holiday as a time to start anew and firmly step into springtime.

The Torah states, as Jewish people we observe Passover for eight days, beginning on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan. This year the season begins at sundown on Wednesday, April 5.

Recognized for more than 3,300 years, Passover is the oldest Jewish holiday. Many families celebrate Passover by cooking, cleaning and participating in a Passover Seder – a service focused on symbolic foods like matzah and retelling the Passover story.

I was honored to host a Passover Seder for my JCA colleagues at the end of March and proud to share our Jewish Passover traditions with many of them for the first time. We read from the Haggadah as we partook in the symbolic Passover foods placed on our seder plate, shared the Passover story, and sang traditional songs with our JCA family members.



**Please be aware of the upcoming Passover holiday hours at our JCA:**

<b>Passover</b>	
Wed, Apr 5	5:30 am – 5 pm
Thu, Apr 6	Closed
Fri, Apr 7	1 - 5 pm
Tue, Apr 11	5:30 am - 5 pm
Wed, Apr 12	Closed
Thu, Apr 13	1 - 9 pm





# JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL

## SELECTIONS AND UPCOMING AUTHOR VISITS!

If you have some time this spring season, we would like to personally invite you to peruse the book selections available to our community in the **JCA's Donziger Media Library**. We have a vast selection of books on Jewish topics and by Jewish authors which also serves as a lending library for our Jewish community in Jacksonville. Additionally, thanks to **PJ Library** and **PJ Our Way**, picture books and chapter books are available for children and teens.

This range of books are separated into categories like Israel, the Holocaust, and Jewish History, so you can easily find something that interests you. We are also thrilled to have a section of the library dedicated to our Jewish Book Council (JBC) authors, including the specific authors who join us at the JCA for our Cultural Arts Festival.

Coming up in May, we will add two more JBC authors to our book collection. On **Tue, May 2 at 7 pm**, local author **Jessica Shorstein** will share her memoir, *And Again, It's You*. Then on **Mon, May 15 at 7 pm**, **Dr. Michael Roizen** will join us to share his latest book, *The Great Age Reboot*. Dr. Roizen was scheduled to join us at the 2022 Cultural Arts Festival, however, the weather kept his plane grounded in November.

**Our Jewish Book Council visiting author events are free and open to our entire community. Please mark your calendars to join us to hear these incredible authors speak!**



### Jessica Shorstein

#### *And Again, It's You*

Embark with Jessica in this alternately humorous and poignant memoir against the backdrops of Israel, New York City, and Washington, DC. Travel along as she rides the highs and lows of young love, navigates missed chances and inopportune timing, and ultimately embraces closure, all while growing into a young Jewish adult in the time of AOL Instant Messenger, when cell phones were not yet ubiquitous.

*And Again, It's You* is a cozy, ever relatable, and nostalgic journey to find meaning in unexpected reconnections with faces from the past.

**Tue, May 2 | 7 pm**

**Free to the community**



### Dr. Michael Roizen

#### 2022 JCA Cultural Arts Festival Rescheduled Event

#### *The Great Age Reboot*

As the human lifespan expands and more people are living to 100 years and beyond, New York Times best-selling author Michael Roizen, M.D., explains how to prepare for a longer, healthier future.

**Mon, May 15 | 7 pm**

**Free to the community**

**Sponsored by:**

 **STARLING AT SAN JOSE**





# SEND a KID!

## CREATING MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME

By Kendall Sisisky Valliere, Development Director

Take a moment to think back to the best summer days of your childhood. Adventures with family and friends, embracing new experiences, learning and discovering new passions – all while creating incredible memories and making lifelong friends. Chances are, your mind takes you back to your own days spent at summer camp.

When the school year comes to an end one of our favorite traditions at the JCA begins – gifting children summer camp and summer days filled with adventure. Thanks to generous **Send A Kid** campaign donors, dozens of children in our community each year experience summer camp at the JCA at a reduced cost. Summer programming should be an experience for all children, not just a luxury for some.

You can make it possible for families to afford an amazing JCA summer experience. From Summer Camp to the JCC Maccabi Games, every dollar raised helps us create a summer of Jewish connections, friendships and unforgettable memories.

We are proud to share that Send A Kid funding also helps our Jacksonville JCA Maccabi Games Team! Coach Rio and our team of young Jewish athletes are preparing to travel to Ft. Lauderdale this summer to compete in the **2023 JCC Maccabi Games**. Participating with athletes from all over the world, this life-changing opportunity emphasizes the importance of Jewish identity and engagement while reinforcing strong moral values, so these young athletes continue to strive to make the world a better place.



Please call Kendall Sisisky Valliere at (904) 730-2100 ext. 231 or email [kendall.valliere@jcjax.org](mailto:kendall.valliere@jcjax.org) for more information about our Send a Kid funding. Visit [jcjax.org/sendakid](http://jcjax.org/sendakid) to make a donation today!

### WILL YOU JOIN US?

HELP US CREATE MEMORIES THAT WILL LAST A LIFE TIME!



#### \$18 DONATION

Provides supplies for children to engage in summer programming.



#### \$36 DONATION

Provides meals for an athlete at the JCC Maccabi Games.



#### \$100 DONATION

Helps offset the cost of a week of JCA Summer Camp.



#### \$470 DONATION

Covers a portion of an athlete's trip to the games.



#### \$940 DONATION

Offsets half the cost of JCA summer programming.



#### \$1,880 DONATION

Gives a child a full summer of programming at the JCA.



**By Shelly Higgins Hughes, Theatre Department Director**

Adapted from the 1951 American animated musical classic, we are thrilled to be preparing for the next PAC production, *Alice in Wonderland*. Below you will see the names of 80 young stars ready to show you their nonsensical versions of Alice, the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, and the Queen of Harts, just to name a few.

**Mark your calendars to join us in May for Alice's magical journey into Wonderland!**

## SHOW DATES:

**May 7 | 1 pm and 4 pm • May 14 | 1 pm and 4 pm**

## STARRING

- Anya Anderson
- Zohar Arad
- Anastasia Beltz
- Rylynn Bennett
- Lillian Berry
- Rachel Biagini
- Josie Bides
- Stella Bides
- Harper Braddock
- Maggie Bullock
- Trysden Butz
- Matthew Carlucci
- Charlie Cohlmaia
- Sophie Cohlmaia
- Max Csar
- Penelope Cumber
- Abby Dean
- Finn Dean
- Josh Draper
- Molly Draper
- Annabel Fernandez
- Aubrey Franklin
- Zachary Fritchman
- Augie Gargas-Paschall
- Mae Groff
- Nashma Laya Gross
- Cooper Hall
- Devon Hall
- Phoebe Harmon
- Ellen Hedrick
- Milly Hedrick
- Amelie Holstein
- Emma Holstein
- Dafna Holzer
- Rena Holzer
- Evie Horne
- Eliana Horovitz
- Ellyette Howerton
- Hannah Ruth Hutto
- Rayna Kempner
- Charlie Kerschner
- Eleanor Kianian
- Levi Kianian
- Ike Lasseter
- Maya Lockenbach
- Harper Miles
- Abraham Murray
- Luke Murray
- Leona Mychka
- Macon Norris
- Emily Parry
- Pavel Ratchev
- Shelby Rauchwarger
- Charlotte Russell
- Amit Sakofs
- Mira Sakofs
- Andrew Saltz
- Kate Shapard
- Andi Shapiro
- Nikki Shapiro
- Adaline Sowada
- Saige Sowada
- Desmond Taylor
- Rosemary Thakkar
- Sicily Thames
- Drew Torres
- Hannah Trest
- Zach Trest
- Jillian Turk
- Brenna Walter
- Levi Welch
- Tali Werner
- Madelyn Wesner
- Veda Wray
- Clara Zeno



# We did it! Again!

By Natalia Fisher, ECE Director

I am proud to share that our Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool & Kindergarten received NAEYC reaccreditation! Receiving National Association for the Education of Young Children - NAEYC accreditation helps inform families in Jacksonville about our high learning standards and the quality of educational programs at the JCA. The NAEYC badge of honor, so to speak, proves how dedicated our teaching staff is and that the children who come here receive the highest-quality, research-based education that will prepare them for future success.

We would like to thank our families for working with us as we went through an extensive process of internal self-study and continuous quality improvement to earn reaccreditation. When it came time for our on-site visit from NAEYC professionals, there was a nervous excitement in the air – we were eager to share our practice and all we do here to enrich the lives of our youngest community members.

As the NAEYC assessor moved through our school, our teachers confidently displayed an emotionally responsive practice while fostering a higher level of thinking when engaging with our children. Quite frankly, it is hard not to be proud of the work and the commitment to excellence in our school. What we value most about this accreditation is that it aligns with our vision to always remain reflective, responsive, research-driven, and grounded in our image of every child.

Our Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool & Kindergarten demonstrated its quality to be reaccredited, meeting all ten NAEYC Early Learning Program Standards. These standards are research-based best practices for the development and learning of young children. According to these standards, all NAEYC-accredited programs must:

- 1 Promote positive relationships for all children and adults to encourage each child's sense of individual worth.
- 2 Implement a curriculum that fosters all areas of child development: cognitive, emotional, language, physical and social.
- 3 Use developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate and effective teaching practices.
- 4 Provide ongoing systematic, formal and informal assessment tools to provide information on children's learning and development.
- 5 Promote the nutrition and health of children and protect children and staff from illness and injury.
- 6 Employ and support teaching staff with the educational qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment necessary to promote children's learning and development and to support families' diverse needs and interests.
- 7 Establish and maintain collaborative relationships with each child's family to foster children's development in all settings.
- 8 Establish relationships with and use the resources of the children's communities to support the achievement of program goals.
- 9 Provide a safe and healthful physical environment.
- 10 Implement policies, procedures and systems that support stable staff and strong personnel, and fiscally responsible program management so all children, families and staff have high-quality experiences.



# Mazel Tov

## Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool & Kindergarten!



Please visit [naeyc.org](http://naeyc.org) to learn more about NAEYC accreditation as well as the organization's standards, mission and values.



# ALUMNI CORNER

By Theresa Levy, Alumni Coordinator



When Pam and her husband, Jonathan, moved here from New Orleans in 1995, just as the Jaguars came to town, Olivia was turning 4 and began Junior Kindergarten with Mrs. Beth Bull. Olivia frequented our summer camp and swam alongside new friends on the Makos Swim Team. Now 31, with her master's degree in Library Science, Olivia is more than a mom and a proud Gan graduate. When she's not in her own classroom teaching, Olivia serves as our part-time librarian in the Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool & Kindergarten.

**“We truly treasure the open, supportive and accepting environment the JCA and Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool & Kindergarten offers our family.”**

“The best thing about working where I grew up, is the sense of community and connection at the JCA,” says Olivia Tavill, who with her wife Stephanie, are both full-time teachers, raising daughters of their own. Their younger, Lyla, is currently enrolled in our Busy Bee class.

“Stephanie and I love bringing the girls to the J. Our older daughter Kira, now 6, participated in Parent & Me classes and swim lessons, and Lyla is really enjoying preschool,” explains Olivia. “We truly treasure the open, supportive and accepting environment the JCA and Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool & Kindergarten offers our family.”

Now, just as Pam brought Olivia to Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool & Kindergarten, she has the pleasure of bringing her granddaughter Lyla to school every day.

“It is great spending time together walking into the same school where we brought Olivia. I appreciate the Jewish values that continue to permeate every part of Lyla's development and her experiences here,” says Pam. “She knows she is respected, valued, accepted and cherished for her unique little self”

“We know that no matter what we're at the J for, our kids are going to have a great time,” says Olivia. “It is so rewarding for us to watch them grow and develop through so many enriching experiences.”

## L'Dor V'Dor From Generation to Generation at our JCA

We never have to look far to find families who call our JCA campus their home away from home - or who attribute their children and grandchildren's thriving youth to the early childhood education received in our Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool & Kindergarten.

In the Tavill Family, we found two generations of students from our Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool & Kindergarten, two generations of JCA employees, and three generations who agree their lives wouldn't be the same without the influence and support of our school and community.

“I am so proud to see the growth and development of our JCA and school in the last two and a half decades,” explains Pam Tavill, our JCA's Director of Administration who began her JCA career 25 years ago.



**If you are a first or second-generation Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool & Kindergarten graduate, I would love to hear from you! Please share your stories and photos from attending preschool and kindergarten at the JCA with me by email, [theresa.levy@jcajax.org](mailto:theresa.levy@jcajax.org). *Todah Rabah!***



# COUNSELOR FOR A SUMMER: LESSONS FOR LIFE

By Evan McInnis, Assistant Youth Services Director



Ah, Summer Camp. It is a magical time where our children make friends for a lifetime, where they learn, grow, and push the boundaries of their comfort zone. At camp, every day is a new adventure and lifelong memories are made. Yes, the summer is truly a special time for our camp counselors at the JCA.

*What? You thought this article is about our JCA camp experience for your kids? Nope. This article is about the people who build unforgettable experiences for your children while they add valuable skills to their resumes.*

Summer is rapidly approaching which means students far and wide are beginning to think of where they want to work when school is out. Internships are available, waiting tables is always an option - there are plenty of restaurants in Jacksonville, and maybe a few promising college students will opt for a desk job this summer - *boring*.

Yes, there are plenty of summer job options to choose from, but I speak from experience when I tell you; nothing compares to being a summer camp counselor at our JCA. As a camp counselor, challenges are an opportunity to learn and grow as a person and in your profession. Whether it is

consoling a child, leading games, filling time with songs and trivia, engaging campers, or interacting with fellow staff and supervisors, every experience at summer camp is one that can benefit counselors into the future.

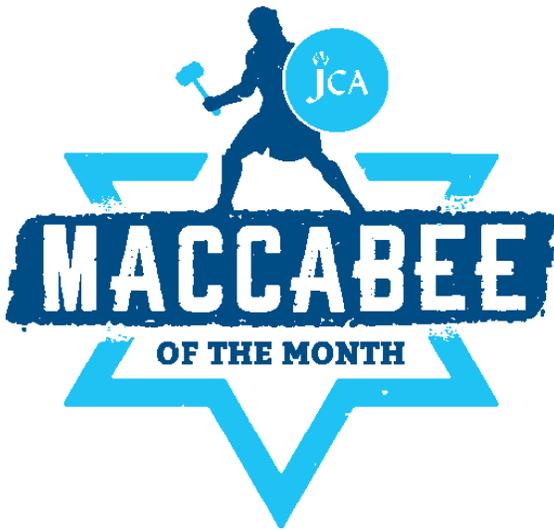
Even when we have to help manage the tough stuff with our summer campers, counselors do so much more than simply help a camper feel better; they are cultivating emotional intelligence while learning how to engage with empathy, purpose and understanding. It's no wonder why so many of the counselors I have worked with go on to become outstanding mental health counselors, doctors, financiers and even general managers.

Counselors who lead activities and learn to think on-the-fly are simultaneously honing their creativity and presentation skills. Capturing the attention of campers and keeping that attention is a challenge. However, once the art of engaging campers is mastered, presenting to a room of classmates, colleagues or clients no longer feels daunting.

A tradition now more than 30 years running, year after year we hear from former counselors who say our JCA Summer Camp equipped them with the skills they needed for success. Heck, I was so passionate about working at summer camp and mentoring children that it is now my career!

If you, or someone you know, is looking for the perfect summer job, please send them our way! Scan the QR code or visit [jcajax.org/careers](http://jcajax.org/careers) to apply to be a camp counselor at the JCA.





## Matthew Edelman

By Beth Milograno, Communications & PR Specialist

When we hear about the Maccabees, the heroes in the Chanukkah story, we are reminded of their courage, physical might, spiritual strength, and mental resilience. Although not necessarily in full warrior attire, we are constantly reminded of these heroes in the halls of our JCA - through our members who mirror these extraordinary qualities and overcome all odds to persevere both mentally and physically in the face of adversity.

Our Maccabee of the Month Matthew Edelman, a charter member and our JCA's audit committee chairman, is one of those reminders. An avid user of our fitness center and supporter of all our JCA does throughout the Jacksonville community, our Maccabee makes health and wellness a priority.



"It has always been important to me during my work life to work out regularly. This enables me to keep my stress levels lower and go to work feeling relatively refreshed," explains Matthew who visits our JCA to exercise every day of the week. "Clint helped me with a workout plan with weights and I am extremely grateful for the yoga classes I attend with Lynelle and Grant. As a result, I've been able to keep my weight to a modest level. I also credit my exercise program with other indicators of my good health like low blood pressure and cholesterol."



While staying active and healthy with his wife, Susan, and their son Jonathan, our JCA was always a priority for the Edelman family in the last three decades, it wasn't until October 2022 that Matthew realized just how valuable his diligence in the gym would be.

"It was Sunday, October 2, early in the morning as I was getting ready to walk over to the JCA and something happened," remembers Matthew. "Thankfully, my wife, Susan, who is normally out for her own walk at that time was still at home. She happened to walk by where I had been getting ready, and saw that I was on the floor and badly injured. I was awake and moving, but somehow, I had hit my head and was bleeding."

After Susan discovered Matthew in this condition, she called 9-1-1 to transport him to the hospital. Upon arrival in the ICU, doctors diagnosed Matthew with a traumatic brain injury and say if Susan hadn't found him when she did, he may not have recovered.

"I spent 10 days in the hospital and three of those in the ICU, 10 days at Brooks rehab center, followed by both physical and cognitive rehab," explains Matthew. "Since I went through that event and had no memory of what happened doctors also monitored me at home to see if they could figure out what exactly caused the event."

Now fully recovered and on a new mission to reinvigorate his life post-injury, our Maccabee of the Month says he is inspired and grateful to be part of a community that cheered for his recovery every step of the way.

"The JCA staff, from Adam Chaskin down, were very supportive when they learned about my accident. I was really missing my time doing regular workouts and was eventually allowed to start working out again," says Matthew. "The staff and trainers were all very encouraging when I returned to the fitness center and I was quite touched by their expressions of sympathy. Despite a slow start, I am now back to my regular seven-day schedule in the fitness room and am close to my previous workout goals."

**The Maccabees were Jewish rebel warriors and heroes of the Chanukkah story. Maccabee means "hammer" and has become a symbol of physical might, spiritual strength, and mental resilience in the face of adversity. If you know a member, or members, of our JCA who exemplify a Maccabee please tell us about them, email Beth Milograno at [beth.milograno@jcjax.org](mailto:beth.milograno@jcjax.org).**



## New Blood

**By Rio Robinson, Sports & Recreation Director**

If you haven't met him yet, we welcomed a new team member to our Sports & Recreation department earlier this year. Alex Minardi joined us as our PE & Sports Coordinator in January and immediately hit the ground running, helping with our physical education and sports programs at the JCA.

Born and raised in Jacksonville, Alex attended Christ's Church Academy High School and holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Florida. His true athletic passion is playing soccer, having lettered in all four years of high school, but Alex says he finds coaching and helping young athletes grow their love of sports extremely fulfilling.

In addition to working with our youngest members in the Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool & Kindergarten, Alex says he loves working with our community in our youth and adult sports leagues and is looking forward to his first summer camp season with us.

**Next time you see Alex around the J, please be sure to say hello and welcome!**

## JCA Fencing Academy

This beginners' class helps fencers gain confidence through games, footwork, coordination, fencing drills and bouts.

**Wed**

**Youth: Ages 6 - 13** | 5 - 6 pm

**Adult: Ages 14+** | 6 - 7:30 pm

**Spring Session** | Apr 19 - Jun 7

**Summer Session** | Jun 21 - Aug 9

\$180 | Valued member \$120



## Capoeira

Capoeira combines fight, acrobatics, music, dance, and rituals in an elegant form. It develops physical strength, power and flexibility and encourages self-confidence, concentration, courage and creativity.

**Tue**

**Youth: Ages 5 - 10** | 5:15 - 6 pm

**Adult: Ages 11+** | 6 - 7 pm

**Spring Session** | Apr 18 - May 23

**Summer Session I** | Jun 6 - Jul 18

(No class Jul 4)

**Summer Session II** | Aug 1 - Sep 5

\$105 | Valued member \$70

## Fast Freddy's Taekwondo Academy

**Ages 3 - 13**

Master Frederick Vescera shares the martial art of Taekwondo with our community. The exciting sport teaches a variety of kicks, strikes and blocks while children build self-defense skills and have lots of fun.

**Mon and Thu**

**Ages 3 - 6** | 4 - 4:45 pm

Any belt color

**Ages 7 - 12** | 5 - 6 pm

White and yellow belts

**Ages 7 - 12, Adults 13+** | 6 - 7 pm

Orange belt and above

**Spring Session** | Mar 16 - May 11

(No class Apr 6)

**Summer Session I** | May 15 - Jul 13

(No class May 25, 29 or Jul 3)

**Summer Session II** | Jul 20 - Sep 14

(No class Sep 4)

\$300 | Valued member \$200



# SERVE LOVE ENDOWMENT FUND

By Aline Berkenbrock, Tennis Pro

All children need and deserve opportunities to improve hand-eye coordination, physical fitness and social skills. With budget cuts at school, working parents and inflation eating into our budgets, achieving these crucial growth goals for our children is more challenging than ever before.

In my opinion and those of many on the courts at the JCA, tennis is a way to develop those physical and social skills. I am proud to share that we have financial assistance available for children to participate in our JCA tennis programs. Thanks to the **Serve Love Endowment Fund**, our JCA and the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida can provide financial support to children in need of tennis items like program fees, equipment or shoes.

Living in Florida, we play and teach the game year-round, and tennis is a sport where children as young as 3 can learn to play. Swinging a racquet, running for cardio training and hitting tennis balls is an amazing outlet for our littlest players and their endless energy. Not only will they sleep soundly, but they are refining their gross motor and fine motor skills.

It is an honor to lead our tennis programs at the JCA, especially as the game challenges and improves our children's abilities. We have successful programs for children ages 3 – 10, with dedicated tennis instructors who have years of experience in the sport. Private tennis lessons are also available and are tailored to a child's age and skill level.

Whether it's singles or doubles, young players have a lot of fun while they learn valuable lessons in teamwork and camaraderie and they develop discipline, patience, self-confidence and a work ethic from any tennis competition. Learning to win and lose with grace on the court translates to behaving with integrity off the court too.

**The assistance available through the Serve Love Endowment Fund can purchase tennis gear, clothing, shoes, racquets, and strings, and will cover fees for our JCA's youth tennis programs. If you are interested in applying for assistance please email Nancy Green, [nancy.green@jcajax.org](mailto:nancy.green@jcajax.org) or Aline Berkenbrock, [aline.berkenbrock@jcajax.org](mailto:aline.berkenbrock@jcajax.org) with more details about your specific situation.**





## Get Ready for Summer Swimming!

By Dustin Rulien, Aquatics Manager

As summer months approach, we are all looking forward to plenty of time outside and near the water. Whether you like the beach, the lake, a river, or your own backyard pool, now is an important time to prepare yourself and those you love for plenty of safe summer fun. Summer water safety starts with knowing how to swim.

We offer a variety of group swim lessons for children and adults starting at 6 months. Every group swim lesson at the JCA integrates safety skills and is taught by our Red Cross-certified Water Safety Instructors. Additionally, our lessons use the American Red Cross Learn to Swim curriculum, designed to help you as an adult or your children achieve swimming goals.

**We can't wait to see you by the Howard and Joy Korman pool this season. Get ready to splash into another great summer with us! Check out the Learn to Swim programs we have available for every member of your family.**

**LEVELS 1-3**  
**Preschool Aquatics**  
Levels 1 - 3 | Ratio 4:1  
Ages 2 - 3 and 4 - 5 yrs

**Spring Session**

Apr 23 - Jun 6

**Summer Session I**

Jun 11 - Jul 25

**Summer Session II**

Jul 30 - Sep 12

**Sun** | 11 - 11:30 am or 1 - 1:30 pm

\$113 | Valued member \$75

**Mon and Wed**

3:30 - 4 pm, 4:30 - 5 pm or 5:30 - 6 pm

**Tue and Thu**

3:30 - 4 pm, 4:30 - 5 pm or 5:30 - 6 pm

\$180 | Valued member \$120

**Pricing for Preschool Aquatics is per session.**

**LEVELS 1-4**  
**Learn to Swim**  
Levels 1 - 4 | Ratio 5:1  
Ages 6 - 9 yrs and 10 - 13 yrs

**Spring Session**

Apr 23 - Jun 6

**Summer Session I**

Jun 11 - Jul 25

**Summer Session II**

Jul 30 - Sep 12

**Sun** | 12 - 12:30 pm or 2 - 2:30 pm

\$113 | Valued member \$75

**Mon and Wed**

3:30 - 4 pm, 4:30 - 5 pm or 5:30 - 6 pm

**Tue and Thu**

3:30 - 4 pm, 4:30 - 5 pm or 5:30 - 6 pm

\$180 | Valued member \$120

**Pricing for Learn to Swim programs is per session.**

**LEVELS 0**  
**Parent and Me**  
Ratio 8:1  
Ages 6 mos - 3 yrs

**Spring Session**

Apr 23 - May 28

**Summer Session I**

Jun 11 - Jul 16

**Summer Session II**

Jul 30 - Sep 3

**Sun** | 10 - 10:30 am

\$113 | Valued member \$75

**Pricing for Parent and Me classes is per session.**



LEVELS  
5 - 6

### School Year Makos Swim Team:

Our school year swim team is a monthly, practice-only team designed for those who complete level 4 of the Learn to Swim program. School year swim team continues our Learn to Swim Levels 5 and 6, refining stroke development and increasing endurance.

Ages 5 - 10 | Sun, 3 - 4 pm | Mon - Thu, 5 - 6 pm

Ages 11 - 18 | Sun, 3 - 4 pm | Mon - Thu, 6 - 7:15 pm

Spring Session | Apr 2 - 30

Fall Session | Aug 1 - 31

One day per week, \$60 | Valued member \$40

Two days per week, \$90 | Valued member \$60

Four days per week, \$120 | Valued member \$80

Pricing for the School Year Makos Swim Team is monthly.

### Summer:

Our summer-time swim team is designed for swimmers who complete level 4 of the Learn to Swim program to refine their strokes and increase endurance. Our Summer Makos compete in six friendly meets with other River City Swim League clubs. A team shirt and swim cap are included in registration fees.

A team shirt and swim cap are included in registration fees.

Summer Season: Mon - Thu | May 1 - Jul 23

Ages 6 & Under | 4:30 - 5:15 pm

Ages 7 - 10 | 5:15 - 6:15 pm

Ages 11 - 18 | 6:15 - 7:15 pm

\$200 | Valued member only

#### Meets only

\$180 | Valued member \$120

Pricing is for the entire Summer Makos Swim Team season.

## Private Swim Lessons

All ages

Each lesson is 30 minutes in length.

\$60 per lesson | Valued member \$30 per lesson

\$420 for eight lessons | Valued member \$210

for eight lessons

## Semi-Private Swim Lessons

All ages

\$40 per lesson | Valued member \$20 per lesson

\$280 for eight lessons | Valued member \$140

for eight lessons

## Sensory Safe Swim Lessons

Ratio 2:1 or 1:1 | All ages

This program is designed for swimmers with Autism.

Swim lessons are held in our quiet, indoor heated pool.

Sun | 4:30 - 5 pm or 5 - 5:30 pm

Spring Session | Apr 23 - May 28

Summer Session I | Jun 11 - Jul 16

Summer Session II | Jul 30 - Sep 3

\$150 | Valued member \$100

## Adult Group Swim Lessons

Ratio 8:1 | 14+ yrs

This program is designed to encourage and introduce adults to swimming in a welcoming and comfortable environment.

Mon and Wed | 6:30 - 7 pm

Spring Session | Apr 24 - Jun 5

Summer Session I | Jun 12 - Jul 24

Summer Session II | Jul 31 - Sep 11

\$180 | Valued member \$120

## Masters Swim Team Practice

Ages 18+

Relearn or refine your strokes in a fun-filled atmosphere with peers. Professional coaches guide swimmers at their own pace.

Eight-week course

Mon | 5:45 - 6:45 am

Spring Session | May 1 - Jun 26

(no practice May 29)

Summer Session | Jul 10 - Aug 28

Wed | 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Spring Session | May 10 - Jun 28

Summer Session | Jul 12 - Aug 30

\$90 | Valued member \$60



David A. Stein  
**Jewish Community Alliance**  
*on the Ed Parker Jewish  
Community Campus*

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Jacksonville, Florida 32217  
(904) 730-2100

[jcajax.org](http://jcajax.org)



Affiliated with the Jewish Federation and  
Foundation of Northeast Florida, the United Way  
of Northeast Florida and the Jewish Community  
Centers of North America.



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**MISSION STATEMENT** The Jewish Community Alliance (JCA)  
strengthens Jewish life, serves as a common meeting ground  
and enhances the quality of life of the entire community.

**VISION STATEMENT** Our vision is to provide **the** place in the tradition of our  
heritage where all people come together throughout their lives to enhance  
body, mind and spirit in an environment of fun, harmony and friendship.

**JUMP**  
- Into -  
**Summer**  
**JCA SUMMER CAMP**  
**AGES: 2 - 16**

**FABULOUS FACILITIES, ENDLESS ACTIVITIES**

**REGISTER TODAY | [JCAJAX.ORG/CAMP](http://JCAJAX.ORG/CAMP)**