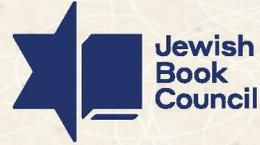
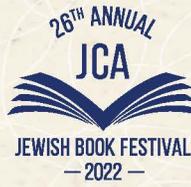


7 CHESHVAN - 6 KISLEV | 5783 | NOVEMBER 2022

JCA

# ALLIANCE NEWS



JACKSONVILLE  
JEWISH  
FILM  
FESTIVAL

A large, vibrant graphic consisting of a dark blue circle with a white geometric pattern inside. The circle is surrounded by a colorful splatter of paint in shades of pink, purple, teal, green, and yellow. The text "JCA CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL 2022" is centered within the circle. "JCA" is in blue, "CULTURAL" is in white, "ARTS" is in orange, and "FESTIVAL" is in white. "2022" is in blue at the bottom right of the word "FESTIVAL".

# JCA CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL 2022

## NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 16

BOOKS • FILMS • MUSIC • VISUAL ARTS • AND MORE!

VOLUME 34  
#3

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



**ADAM CHASKIN**  
730-2100 ext. 272

Dear Friends,  
November is here, and we are excited to share an amazing array of Jewish authors, musicians, artists and films with our community! In the last several months, our **Cultural Arts Festival** Chair Whitney Kivin, and our wonderful committee members have worked tirelessly to plan unique and varied festival events. Our annual celebration of Jewish arts, literature and films began Oct 30 with Joe Buchanan - a country singer with a Jewish soul. Turn to **pages 4 and 5** to read more about what we have planned through **Nov 16**. You don't want to miss any of our **FREE JCA Cultural Arts Festival** events.

The school year in full swing means one of the most impressive programs at the JCA, our award-winning **Magic Wardrobe Theatre**, is underway. It is always exciting when we hear local professionals in the **Bessie Setzer Frisch Auditorium** practicing and perfecting their show with our Theatre Director Shelly Higgins Hughes. Did you know that the JCA Magic Wardrobe Theatre program is the second most popular field trip for elementary schools? This year, more than 20,000 children from throughout Northeast Florida will travel to the JCA to see the variety of plays our terrific cast produces. The fact that so many kids get to have a live theatre experience, many for the first time, at the JCA is such a special thing. That's not all that's happening in the theatre; more than 70 children are busy rehearsing with Shelly for **Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical**, our PAC production that will debut in December. Tickets will go on sale later this month; you can read more about the show and our incredible cast on **page 9**.

As the fall Jewish Holidays come to an end, I hope you feel a sense of renewal and excitement for the new year. This September, I experienced personal renewal when I had the privilege to travel to Israel with the **Myron I. Flagler Israel Learning Seminar (ILS)**. Not only was it an authentic adventure through Israel, but it was also a life-changing experience for many of the ILS participants. Affectionately referred to as an encyclopedia of knowledge, our Membership Director Chris Turner put our travels into words; please read more about our time in Israel on **page 10**.

A few months ago, we launched our ambitious capital campaign, **Building Our Future Together**, to renovate and update the JCA, which will allow us to grow and continue to be a community leader for many years to come. I am happy to share that our planning and leadership phase of the campaign is underway and that we have many exciting changes planned for our JCA campus.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded during this American secular holiday, much like Sukkot, to give thanks for all the goodness and blessings we have as we share the joy of the day with family and loved ones. I am personally filled with gratitude for our devoted volunteers, supporters, staff members and board of trustees as we achieve greatness together so that the future of our JCA remains bright.

Wishing you and your family a joyous and safe Thanksgiving,

Adam Chaskin  
CEO

JCA BUILDING HOURS	
Sun.....	8 am – 6 pm
Mon – Thu.....	5:30 am – 9 pm
Fri.....	5:30 am – 5 pm
Sat.....	1 – 6 pm



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

**Jewish Community Alliance**  
8505 San Jose Boulevard  
Jacksonville, FL 32217

For additional program information and to register, please contact the JCA.

**P (904) 730-2100 | F (904) 730-2444**  
[jcjax.org](http://jcjax.org) | [info@jcjax.org](mailto:info@jcjax.org)  
[facebook.com/jcjax](https://facebook.com/jcjax)

- Sam Stromberg ..... Board Chair
- Adam Chaskin..... Chief Executive Officer
- Chelsea Jarrell ..... Director of Marketing
- Lee Lemay ..... Graphic Designer
- Beth Milograno..... Communications & PR Specialist

**Kid Kare (babysitting)**  
**(904) 730-2100 ext. 325**

Operation hours:

- Sun - Fri mornings 9 am - 12 pm and Mon - Thu evenings from 5 - 8 pm.
- Snacks are not allowed at open play area, but members of the same household can share the private table at the fenced infant area to snack per request.
- JCA Kid Kare is offered on a first come first serve basis.

Space is limited to 12 kids per shift.

*In Memory of...*

**PAM TAVILL'S BELOVED MOTHER**  
by Adam and Regina Chaskin  
Bunni and Myron Flagler  
Hollie and Hank Arnold  
The Board and Staff of the JCA

**LEE LEMAY'S BELOVED GRANDMOTHER**  
by Lior Spring and Daniel Miller  
The Board and Staff of the JCA  
**RITA MEDINA'S BELOVED FATHER**  
by Ezra Miller and Family  
**KENNY KRAEMER, BELOVED SON**  
by Lior Spring and Daniel Miller  
The Flagler Family

David and Michele Steinfeld  
Nicole and Andy Brown  
Karen and Philip Adler  
Adam and Regina Chaskin  
The Board and Staff of the JCA  
**MARGARET HARGROVE**  
by Nicole and Andy Brown  
The Board and Staff of the JCA

**WILL DAWKINS**

The Board and Staff of the JCA

**MARYLIN MARGOL, BELOVED MOTHER**  
by The Board and Staff of the JCA

**LAN KATZ, BELOVED HUSBAND**  
by Michele and David Steinfeld

**DR. CONRAD JACOBS, BELOVED FATHER AND GRANDFATHER**

by The Miller Families  
Adam and Regina Chaskin  
The Board and Staff of the JCA

*For a Speedy Recovery ....*

**LAUREN COHEN-FISZMAN**

by Adam and Regina Chaskin  
The Board and Staff of the JCA

**MATTHEW EDELMAN**

by The Miller Families  
Adam and Regina Chaskin  
The Board and Staff of the JCA

*In Honor of...*

**CLINT NEALE'S BIG BIRTHDAY**

by Karen and Philip Adler

**ERIK ROSTHOLDER'S**

**IRONMAN IN MARYLAND**

by The Board and Staff of the JCA

**LYNNELL GRIMES' BIRTHDAY**

by Michele Steinfeld

**ALAN GORDON'S BIRTHDAY**

by Michele and David Steinfeld

**The Stephanie Green Fund**

*In memory of....*

**MARYLIN MARGOL, BELOVED MOTHER**  
by Nancy and Mark Green

**KENNY KRAEMER, BELOVED SON**

by Nancy and Mark Green



KENDALL SISISKY VALLIERE | DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR | 730-2100 EXT. 231

**DEVELOPMENT**

# GENEROSITY MATTERS

**By Kendall Sisisky Valliere, Development Director**

The generosity of our Jacksonville community never ceases to amaze me. We are very fortunate to live in a place where so many of our neighbors and local businesses care about the welfare of others. Our JCA benefits from so many gifts of support, and it is truly inspiring to know how many people in Northeast Florida value what we do here as we uphold the JCA's mission throughout the entire community.

From individuals who leave their legacy through an endowment to the JCA, those who send personal checks every month with support, to the large donations made by several notable local companies - every dollar of support counts. There is truly no greater feeling than knowing we have the funds to help those in need with our services.

CSX, Florida Blue and VyStar Credit Union, are long-time supporters of our annual **Educator Support Network** for early childhood teachers and parents, while **Starling Senior Living** is a valued partner in our **JCA Cultural Arts Festival** programs this November. We are also grateful to local companies like **Liberty Landscape Supply** and **Manifest Distilling**, who most recently provided in-kind gifts to support our annual fundraising event.

There are so many opportunities to join us as our JCA continues in our mission to strengthen Jewish life, serve as a common meeting ground, and enhance the quality of life for our entire community.

A tax deduction may be taken in the year a gift payment is made to the extent permitted by law. A copy of the official registration and financial information for the Jewish Community Alliance Inc., a Florida-based nonprofit corporation (Registration No. CH202), may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free: 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) within the state or visiting their website. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.

We are proud to provide a 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.

## GIVING TUESDAY

Corporate donations, in-kind gifts, sponsorship and your personal support of our JCA gets noticed by our 6,000+ valued members and guests.

As **Giving Tuesday** approaches, **November 29**, I hope you will consider a gift to our JCA to help us serve in our mission and give more people in our community access to our incredible programs and services. To support our JCA, please visit [jcjax.org/donate](http://jcjax.org/donate). You can contact me directly at **(904) 730-2100 ext. 231** or email, [kendall.valliere@jcjax.org](mailto:kendall.valliere@jcjax.org).

**Our many thanks to these amazing corporate sponsors for their generosity and continuous support of our enriching JCA programming and events.**

- Baptist Health • Beaver Street Fisheries • Berman Brothers
- Black Knight, Inc. • Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q • Borland Groover
- Brightway Insurance - Riverside • Brooks Rehabilitation
- Browdy and Browdy, Inc. • Catering by Liz • Chef's Garden Catering and Events • CSX • Ennis, Pellum and Associates, CPAs
- Florida Blue • GrayRobinson Attorneys at Law • HUB International • iDeal Gas • International Management Group
- Jacksonville Jaguars • Liberty Landscape Supply
- LifeFitness • The Lighthouse Wealth Management Group at Morgan Stanley • Manifest Distilling • MasterCraft Builder Group • Meymand Oral Maxillofacial Surgery • Minuteman Press • Moore Stephens Lovelace, P. A. • Precor • PRI Productions
- Starling at San Jose • TD Wealth • Terk Oncology
- VyStar Credit Union



## ENGAGEMENT AND CONNECTION FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 16

By Heather Terrill, J Institute Program Manager

We have something for everyone at the **JCA Cultural Arts Festival** through **Nov 16!** Excitement is in the air as our JCA prepares to host Jewish cinematic creativity, best-selling Jewish authors, family programs and inspirational visual artwork by students with local Jewish schools and synagogues.

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind-the-scenes to plan our Cultural Arts Festival experiences? Now in its twenty-sixth year, from selecting our book and film committee, featured authors, films and family programs to speaking with donors and promoting our events throughout Jacksonville, there is a lot of planning to make it all happen. Our work with the festival committees begins many months before you take your seat in our Bessie Setzer Frisch Auditorium, or peruse the new décor on the walls of our Vandroff Art Gallery.

After the film and book committees are selected, the book committee is given a list of **Jewish Book Council** authors and book titles we (myself and our Jewish Educator Rachel Sandler) received. Then, the committee starts reading down the list so they can each provide us with three book recommendations. Once Rachel and I have a list from the book committee, we take it with us when we attend the annual Jewish Book Council conference. At the conference, we listen to 200 authors give a two-minute rundown about their book. We bring those reviews back to the committee, decide on which authors we would like at the JCA, then we make our big ask for visiting authors! Inviting authors to our festival is always nerve-racking because we never know who will accept our invitation. However, the anticipation is worth the wait because it is always exciting when our list is returned and author confirmations start coming in.

Meanwhile, our amazing film committee members (the other key players who make our festival so wonderful) are busy watching films and making their favorite picks. We study every JCC film festival around the country to select our festival's featured films. Additionally, we review a long list of emails that I receive throughout the year from various film distributors. The list of every potential film is compiled and sorted by the committee for review. The committee watches each film and provides a rating with feedback, stating whether (or not) the film should be featured at our festival. After a committee vote (and sometimes re-vote), the films are selected and show times are scheduled.

When planning began for the **2022 JCA Cultural Arts Festival**, we decided to do things a little differently for our Family Programs and our display in the **Vandroff Art Gallery**. For the first time in festival history, we will showcase the works of young artists from local Jewish schools and synagogues. Our Vandroff Art Gallery will transform come **Thursday, November 3** to showcase a variety of artwork from students at **Beth El – The Beaches Synagogue, Martin J. Gottlieb Day School, Jacksonville Jewish Center, Etz Chaim Synagogue, Congregation Ahavath Chesed – The Temple, Torah Academy of Jacksonville and Chabad of Southside**.

Our official gallery opening coupled with two engaging Family Programs will be on **Sunday, November 6** from 2 - 4 pm. After we read ***A Picture for Marc*** by Eric A. Kimmel, we will create our own masterpieces with **PJ Library**. Thanks to our partners at **LJD Jewish Family & Community Services**, your entire family is invited to our screening of, ***Give it back!*** The film, by Ruchama Erenhalt, is about a girl named Olivia, who moved to Israel from New York.

**WE HOPE YOU ARE INSPIRED  
TO JOIN US THIS MONTH!**



**A FULL LIST OF OUR FREE FESTIVAL EVENTS CAN BE FOUND AT [JCAJAX.ORG/JCAFEST!](https://JCAJAX.ORG/JCAFEST)**

**THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS, THE JCA CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL  
EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.**



**ANNA SALTON EISEN**  
*Pillar of Salt*  
WED, NOV 2 | 7 PM



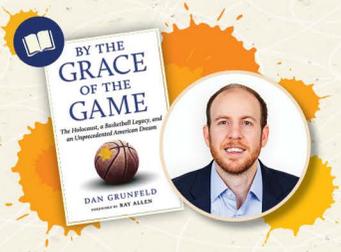
**GIOIA DILIBERTO**  
*Coco at the Ritz*  
WED, NOV 9 | 7 PM  
Ladies' Night Out  
Cocktails at 6:30 pm



**PERSIAN LESSONS**  
2020, 2h 7m, Drama  
NOV 3 | 7 PM



**MICHAEL ROIZEN**  
*The Great Age Reboot*  
THU, NOV 10 | 7 PM  
Sponsored by: STARLING



**DAN GRUNFELD**  
*By the Grace of the Game*  
SUN, NOV 6 | 7 PM



**XUETA ISLAND**  
2021, 1h 3m, Documentary  
NOV 13 | 1 PM  
Skype with director at 2 pm



**LISA BARR**  
*Woman on Fire*  
TUE, NOV 8 | 12 PM  
Book Club  
Streaming at the JCA



**GREENER PASTURES**  
2021, 1h 30m, Comedy  
NOV 16 | 7 PM

## FAMILY PROGRAMS

SUN, NOV 6 | 2 – 4 PM



Celebrate the arts with your entire family at the JCA. On Nov 6 we will read, *A Picture for Marc* by Eric A. Kimmel and create a masterpiece during our engaging Family Program with PJ Library.



Thanks to our partners at LJD Jewish Family & Community Services, there will be a screening of, *Give it Back!* A Film by Ruchama Erenhalt about a young girl who moves to Israel from New York.



## VANDROFF ART GALLERY OPENING RECEPTION

SUN, NOV 6 | 2 – 4 PM

Stop by for the opening in our Vandroff Art Gallery on Nov 6! The work of young artists from local Jewish schools and synagogues will be on display.



Come experience the inspiring pieces by students with:

- Beth El - The Beaches Synagogue
- Martin J. Gottlieb Day School
- Jacksonville Jewish Center
- Etz Chaim Synagogue
- Congregation Ahavath Chesed (The Temple)
- Torah Academy of Jacksonville
- Chabad of Southside

Learn, Play, Grow and Make Music

# Parent & Me

Classes Are Free!

By Beth Milograno, Communications & PR Specialist



If you find yourself at our JCA on a Monday or Wednesday around 11 am, listen carefully. There's a unique kind of bonding happening between parents and their children in our **Make Music** and **Story Time** classes with **Katie Curler**.

"An appreciation for music helps children beyond just giving them a chance to giggle and have fun producing new sounds while moving freely to the beat," explains Katie Curler, our incredible Parent & Me educator at the JCA. "Story Time helps build early literacy skills, exposes children to a varied vocabulary and encourages experimentation with different vocal sounds and modes of expression."

When the JCA's **Parent & Me Classes** began 29 years ago, they were created to give families in our community (members and guests alike) a place to bond with their children along with the opportunity to meet other families navigating life with a new little one. With a background in libraries and archives, and as a lifelong student of music, Katie first started working at the JCA after moving to Jacksonville and enrolling her sons in our **Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool & Kindergarten**.

"When one of the administrators working in carline noticed the eclectic blend of music I was playing during drop-off one day, we started talking about Parent & Me music classes and the rest is history," says Katie. "These classes give young children the confidence to begin to experience the world while feeling safe and supported by the grownups they already know and love. It is amazing to see the kids in class grow and change throughout the year; their enjoyment of the songs and stories is so pure and enthusiastic."

As a mentor, not only for the children but the parents and caregivers who attend her classes, Katie strives to make her lessons at the JCA a tangible and enriching experience for all.

"In both Make Music and Story Time, I try to give them (families) ideas for how to bring these activities into their home in a way that feels fun for them and their children," says Katie. "I'm not focused on creating the next Mozart; I am focused on enhancing the bond between children and their caregivers in a playful environment. Parent & Me classes also allow us to support caregivers who need a distraction from a new crawler or an understanding smile after a sleepless night. It is so great to give parents a place to congregate and commiserate with others in the same phase of life."

Our free Parent & Me programs at the JCA are available through **Dec 16**. Each class is designed to stimulate young brains with movement, song and play. Our classes create a foundation for social and emotional development as well as a unique connection to new families throughout our community. Please visit [jcjax.org](http://jcjax.org) to register for Parent & Me Classes in advance.

## Upcoming Parent & Me Classes



### Make Music

(3 mos – 3 yrs)

Mon | 11 – 11:45 am | Nov 7 – Dec 12  
(No class Nov 21)



### Stroller Fit Moms

(Birth – 3 yrs)

Mon | 12 – 12:45 pm | Nov 7 – Dec 12  
(No class Nov 21)



### Sensory Sensations

(6 mos – 3 yrs)

Tue | 11 – 11:45 am | Nov 1 – Dec 13  
(No class Nov 22)



### Story Time

(Birth – 3 yrs)

Wed | 11 – 11:45 am | Nov 2 – Dec 14  
(No class Nov 23)



### On the Go

(Crawlers – 3 yrs)

Thu | 11 – 11:45 am | Nov 10 – Dec 15  
(No class Nov 24)



### Family Yoga

(Crawlers – 3 yrs)

Sun | 10 – 10:45 am | Nov 13



### Tot Shabbat with Ms. Renee

(Birth – 3 yrs)

Fri | 11 – 11:45 am | Dec 16



# ALUMNI CORNER

By Theresa Levy, Alumni Coordinator



## A Family Tradition in the Making

The Rosenblum siblings, Rachel, Richie, Ryan and Riley, are among the few families at our JCA who can boast about completing their early childhood education in our **Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool & Kindergarten**. Their parents, Richard and Jennifer, proudly sent all four of their children to our school - and furthermore, all four Rosenblum kids attended Kindergarten with now retired JCA educator, Beth Bull.

Although Kindergarten graduation was many years ago, the Rosenblum children continue to be familiar faces around the halls of our JCA. Rachel, Richie and Ryan are all JCA employees. A recent graduate of the University of Florida, Rachel was officially hired a decade ago as a babysitter in Kid Kare; she serves as a camp counselor and was recently promoted to Youth Program Coordinator in our Youth Services department.

"I cherish the relationships I get to build with the children in our program," says Rachel. "I have had the privilege of watching these kids grow up here, just as I did. My goal is to always be a positive influence and share my wisdom and experience with them wherever I can."

Richie Rosenblum attends college in Iowa and plays on the Wartburg College basketball team. When Richie was little he played on our JCA's youth sports leagues and was hired as a game timer, referee and summer camp counselor. When Richie returns to the JCA on his breaks from college, he can usually be found helping out in our Sports and Recreation Department.



Ryan Rosenblum started college this fall and also loves playing sports at the JCA. When he's not in Tallahassee, Ryan helps with our sports leagues and summer camps. As for Riley, the youngest Rosenblum, he still loves playing sports at our JCA and hopes to follow in his siblings' footsteps in the near future.

"The JCA has always been a second home for me and my brothers," explains Rachel. "Being here gave us a strong foundation for our education and employment opportunities. We truly are forever grateful for that!"



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 about attending preschool and kindergarten at the JCA with me by email, [theresa.levy@jcajax.org](mailto:theresa.levy@jcajax.org). *Todah Rabah!*



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES



### By Amanda Collins Hall, Youth Services Director

You see our young friends from Youth Services playing in the JCA’s gym, hear them giggling up and down the halls, and undoubtedly, you ask yourself the same question I ask myself almost daily. *How did all these kids get here?!*

Well, the answer is, *Ben or Will brought them.* We refer to **Ben Morris** and **Will McClain** as the **Bus Bosses** around the JCA. The carpool kings, van VIPs and sultans of student transportation are unparalleled when it comes to parallel parking – and keeping your children safe. All nicknames and incredible driving skills aside, there is much more to know about these kind and patient gentlemen.

A New Jersey native, Ben Morris joined our JCA family in 2021. He is a 20-year veteran of the United States Army and when Ben’s not transporting children, he helps in our award-winning Fitness Center. When Ben is not at the JCA,

he’s gone fishing. Most weekends Ben and his son fish in St. Augustine on the banks of the St. Johns River.

Will McClain came to Florida after 23 years of service with the Navy. After retiring, Will continued working as an aircraft mechanic, then moved to Jacksonville. Will is a football fan – he roots for the Michigan Wolverines even though his son played for the South Carolina Gamecocks under Steve Spurrier.

With the support of our amazing drivers, our After School programs continue to reach incredible milestones with nearly full enrollment. The kids who come here for cooking classes, piano lessons, tutoring, art classes and sports, all know their fun afternoons at the JCA would not be possible without Will and Ben - and how they deliver precious cargo every day.

## J-CATION DAYS AND J-CATION DAY FIELD TRIPS AHEAD! (GRADES K - 8)

### J·Cation Days



On days when school is closed, send your children to explore, create, learn and have fun at the JCA. Children choose from a variety of sports, STEM and art activities throughout the day. Leave your worries at the door as your child enters our safe, nurturing environment supervised by our responsible and energetic staff.

#### Upcoming J-Cation Days

**Fri, Nov 11 and Wed, Nov 23**

**Winter Break: Dec 19 – Jan 3**

#### J-Cation Day Field Trips

Your child is invited to join us for these supplemental field trips during J-Cation Days.

**Dec 20 | Tinseltown Movie Theatre**

\$30 | Valued member \$20

**Dec 22 | Top Golf**

\$53 | Valued Member \$35

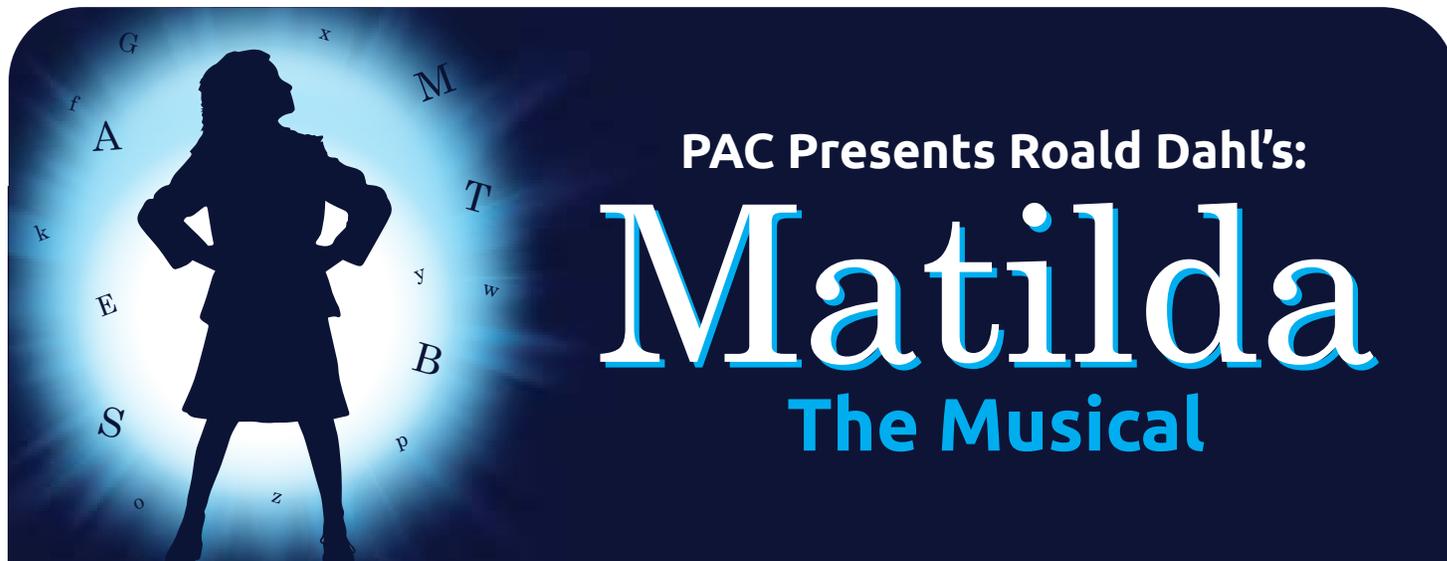
**Dec 27 | Sweet Pete’s Candy Class**

\$30 | Valued member \$20

**Dec 29 | Bravo’z**

\$53 | Valued Member \$35

Please call (904) 730-2100 ext. 228 for more information about J-Cation Day options and registration.



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

Inspired by the genius of Roald Dahl, the Tony Award-winning *Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical* is a captivating show that revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination, and the inspirational story of a girl who dreams of a better life.

Mark your calendars to join us in December as 70 young stars with JCA's Performing Arts for Children take you on a magical journey into the lives of Matilda and her friends.

### STARRING:

Gabby Algee • Talia Algee • Frankie Anderson • Zohar Arad • Anastasia Beltz • Rylynn Bennett • Harper Braddock  
 Lydia Brown • Maggie Bullock • Abby Burch • Sophie Cohlma • Max Csar • Nora Dillon • Olivia Dillon • Molly Draper  
 Annabel Fernandez • Patrick Ferricane • Zachary Fritchman • Augie Gargas-Paschall • Matthew Gargas-Paschall  
 Audrey Hall • Devon Hall • Phoebe Harmon • Maggie Harrell • Joshua Hatch • Emma Holstein • Dafna Holzer  
 Rena Holzer • Evie Horne • Eliana Horovitz • Rayna Kempner • Bobbe Kern • Merriam Kern • Charlie Kerschner  
 Ellison Kestner • Addie Larson • Ellie Lasseter • Ike Lasseter • Evie Mulberry • Abraham Murray • Noah Neihaus  
 Macon Norris • Emily Parry • Pavel Ratchev • Charlotte Russell • Amit Sakofs • Mira Sakofs • Andrew Saltz  
 Preston Schmick • Calev Shapiro • Feivel Shapiro • Andi Shapiro • Nikki Shapiro • Adaline Sowada • Saige Sowada  
 Jason Sulewski • Lilliana Tamanini • Desmond Taylor • Donovan Taylor • Sicily Thames • Drew Torres • Hannah Trest  
 Zach Trest • Levi Welch • Tali Werner • Kaija Worrell • Veda Wray • Clara Zeno • Martin Zeno

### SHOW DATES:

Saturday | December 3 and 10 | 7:30pm

Sunday | December 4 and 11 | 1:00pm



**Tickets \$10 All tickets are sold in advance via [jcajax.org](http://jcajax.org).**

# Welcome to Israel.

Your life will never be the same.

By Chris Tuner, Membership Director

When our Israel Learning Seminar group got off the plane at the airport in Tel Aviv in September, among the first things we saw was a sign that read, "Welcome to Israel. Your life will never be the same." At the time, it was just a catchy tourism slogan but by the end of our nine days in the world's most holy site, we all realized that our lives would truly never be the same.

When we applied for the **Myron I. Flagler Israel Learning Seminar (ILS)** and started classes in January 2020, our JCA staff members along with employees from **River Garden Hebrew Home** and **The LJD Jewish Family & Community Services** were eager to start our adventure. As the third official group to study and travel to Israel thanks to former JCA Executive Director Myron Flagler and his co-facilitator, JCA Director of Administration Pam Tavill, we couldn't wait for the experience to begin. Myron and Pam planned every stop on the journey to help us all gain a better understanding of Jewish peoplehood and allow us to authentically include this new knowledge in our own work. However, with the original date for take-off to Israel being December 2020, the pandemic kept us waiting.



"Even before the plane ride, we wondered if we would ever get there," said Amanda Collins Hall, JCA Youth Services Director. "I'm sure others would agree that at times it felt like we would never actually make it to Israel."

Amanda was right. By the time our plane took off it was more than two years since our initial ILS meeting, and we were given our seventh version of the itinerary for the trip. It turns out, seven was our lucky number. When the time finally came, the adventure was more than worth the wait. For several of us (like me), traveling to Israel was our first trip overseas or our first trip away from home for such a long period of time.

"I was nervous to leave my family but what I quickly came to realize was the group of people I traveled with became my family," said Rachael Ledesma, an early childhood educator at our JCA. "We had been through a lot together and being on this adventure with this group was incredible. It is amazing how when I discuss Israel with my students, I can speak from the experience of being there and the feelings I had."

Another integral part of our group, who also quickly became like family, was our tour guide and friend of Myron, Julian Resnick. A wealth of information, Julian is like having a Frommer's Travel Guide expert talking and teaching throughout the entire trip. Julian shared with us that to understand the big details, you must first learn to appreciate the little details.

"Taking in the beauty of the land, the passion of people and to add, having an extraordinary scholar of an educator and guide, had me hanging onto every word of every moment," said Lisa Poremba, Director of Life Enrichment Services at River Garden Hebrew Home. "Long days of traveling, walking, eating incredible food, and more walking, left me with a grateful heart for this opportunity."

As we all decompressed from the trip, we learned that each of us had a variety of emotional experiences in Israel. For some of us, it was visiting the **Kotel (Western Wall)**. "One moment that really stood out to me was seeing the Kotel for the first time. When I knew I was finally going to Israel and visiting the wall, I asked family and friends to give me prayers to put in the wall," said Rachael. "It felt to me like I was bringing a little part of everyone with me to the wall."

The most emotional experiences in Israel were discovered in unexpected places, like at the **Dead Sea** or our visit to the **Basilica of St. Anne** in Jerusalem. Visiting the church known for its incredible acoustics was a moment none of us will soon forget.

“When we walked in, there was a group of travelers singing in German. When they finished, another group started singing in Italian. The moment was so beautiful and unexpected. I found myself filled with feelings of peace, gratitude and joy,” remembered Amanda. “At that moment, the emotions poured out of me.”

Director of Prevention Services for The LJD Jewish Family & Community Services, Jennifer Wirz, echoed Amanda’s sentiments, “We were all sitting in the church listening to other groups sing and it was just a beautiful and joyful moment. This was the last day we were there and it had been a very busy trip with little time to just sit and reflect,” explained Jennifer. “It was a beautiful moment in the church listening to people sing and reflecting on all the people I had met, all the places I had experienced and all the knowledge I had gained.”

Additionally, spending time visiting with people living in Israel left us with a better understanding of how similar we all are. For Theresa Johnson, FAST Supervisor at The LJD Jewish & Family Community Services, the realization happened during a golf cart tour of the Hula Valley Nature Preserve. “I saw a couple taking wedding pictures and their son was sitting on the golf carts. It occurred to me, we all aren’t that different, and we all want the same basic things - love, safety and security for our families,” Theresa reminisced.

“It’s really valuable when you get the opportunity to not only learn about a different culture but also are able to experience it,” said Jennifer. “It (hopefully) allows you to come home and have more empathy for others and the ability to understand someone else’s point of view.”



By sharing meals in the homes of Israelis, whether it was a Druze woman in a tiny village, or a Chef Rabbi whose wife bakes amazing challah bread - we certainly experienced the food and the wine of Israel. We also experienced a connection to a place and its people that can only truly be understood through a visit.

“Instead of tasting my way through Israel, or sight-seeing my way through Israel, I felt my way through Israel,” said Amanda. “I truly feel like a changed person. I recommend anyone who can visit Israel to do so!”

As we traveled back to Jacksonville, we all found ourselves thinking about the truth behind the sign we all noticed during our first moments in Israel. Personally, this trip changed me in several ways and my life will never be the



same. When we were headed to Jacksonville International Airport, I thought this would be my one and only trip out of the country. Now, I feel like I cannot get back to Israel quickly enough. As my fellow travelers stated, it was an emotional and spiritual journey through a truly incredible country. Even though our time together was brief, I felt instantaneously connected to the people I encountered along the way. I knew before we left how much I would enjoy being around the people of Israel, but I didn’t know I would leave with new friends whom I hope to visit again very soon. I am extremely proud to now be among the dozens of ILS participants whose lives have changed because of their adventures in Israel.

### 2022 Myron I. Flagler Israel Learning Seminar (ILS) Participants

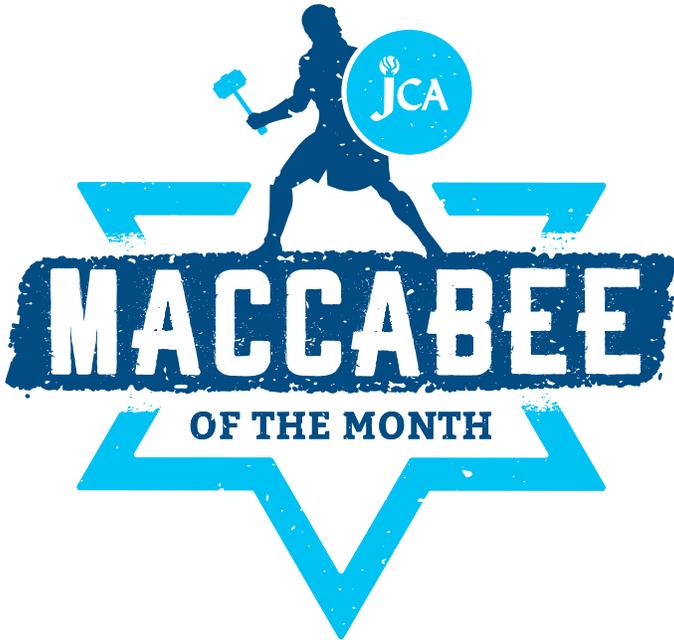
- Adam Chaskin, CEO, JCA
- Amanda Collins Hall, Youth Services Director, JCA
- Natalia Fisher, Early Childhood Education Director, JCA
- Grant Helm, Fitness Center Trainer, JCA
- Theresa Johnson, FAST Supervisor, LJD JF&CS
- Rachael Ledesma, Early Childhood Educator, JCA
- Alan Margolies, Retired Executive Director, Jewish Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida
- Lisa Renae Poremba, Life Enrichment Director, River Garden
- Pam Tavill, Director of Administration, JCA
- Kerstin Teutonico, Early Childhood Educator, JCA
- Chris Turner, Membership Director, JCA
- Jennifer Wirz, Director of Prevention Services, LJD JF&CS



Our extreme gratitude to Myron Flagler, Retired Executive Director of our Jewish Community Alliance, for making the Israel Learning Seminar possible and affording us this incredible life-changing experience. Upon Myron Flagler’s retirement from the JCA, an endowment fund was put

in place so that the Israel Learning Seminar would remain in perpetuity. Details about the next trip to Israel will be announced in the next few months. Every employee at our JCA’s partner Jewish agencies is encouraged to apply.

**If you would like to support the Myron I. Flagler Israel Learning Seminar Endowment Fund, please email our Development Director Kendal Sisisky Valliere, [kendall.valliere@jcajax.org](mailto:kendall.valliere@jcajax.org).**



## Keith Kupperman

By Beth Milograno, Communications & PR Specialist

Motivation is defined as, “the process that initiates, guides and maintains our goal-orientated behaviors.” It is what helps us lose extra weight, pushes us to achieve great things, and keeps us persistent as we strive to attain our personal goals.

If you see our **Maccabee of the Month, Keith Kupperman**, in the JCA fitness center, take note. A valued member since 1988, according to our Fitness & Wellness Director Eiffel Gilyana, as a former collegiate athlete, Keith may be one of the most self-motivated people in our gym.

“As far as my workout routine goes, cardio is the most important thing. I do 40 to 45 minutes of cardio every day. I also do weights, resistance and stretching three or four days a week,” explains Keith Kupperman. “My biggest motivation is that growing up I was always the fat kid in school, and I don’t want to be the fat adult.”

Since struggling with obesity as a child, Keith says he’s grateful to have solved the healthy lifestyle equation back in college.

“Exercise helps burn more calories and thus, you can eat more or lose weight faster. I lost 80 pounds during my freshman year of college at the University of Mississippi. I figured out that there is no secret to losing weight, it’s simple math,” says Keith. “The average person burns about 1700 to 2000 calories a day. If you eat more calories than you burn off, you will gain weight and if you eat less, you will lose.”



Aside from his unwavering dedication to his workout, our Maccabee attributes his extremely healthy diet as to what keeps him strong and on track with his personal goals.

“I have not had a soda in 15 years, I never eat fast food and I don’t eat cookies, donuts, candy or cake. I avoid fried foods and high carbs,” explains Keith. “When my father died in 2006, I stopped being consistent with my workouts and gained about 30 pounds. I didn’t like what I was doing to myself and started exercising again on a regular basis. In 2014, I was in a car accident and I could not do my workouts for a few months. While doing rehab the doctor said a guy my age shouldn’t be lifting heavy weights. So, I changed my workout to light weights and lots of reps, and I have been doing that ever since. I am highly motivated to never be overweight again.”

**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.**

## Renaissance Athletes

By Rio Robinson, Sports & Recreation Director

It's no secret; settling back into a school routine can be difficult, especially on our kids. That's why it is important for parents to give children opportunities to get active, have fun, meet new friends and play outside of the classroom. Exposing children to a variety of enrichment programs, like what we have to offer at the JCA, gives kids even more opportunities to expand their interests and athletic abilities.

It is too often that I see young kids who only play a singular sport throughout the entire school year. I am a big believer that trying various sports and new enrichment activities help a child's development flourish. Plus, it provides your kids a way to cross-train their brains in gross and fine motor skills. Children have new social interactions when they try different things and of course, meet new friends. Not to mention the opportunity to grow a new passion for a sport they have never tried before. Our JCA specializes in youth athletic programs and offers sports clinics and leagues throughout the year.

If you have questions or would like more details about what sports are available at the JCA this fall, please email me, [rio.robinson@jcajax.org](mailto:rio.robinson@jcajax.org).

### JCA Youth Flag Football League Ages 4 – 16

Our mandatory Youth Flag Football assessments will be held Sun, Nov 20:

**Ages 10 - 16** | 1 pm      **Ages 6 - 7** | 3 pm

**Ages 8 - 9** | 2 pm      **Ages 4 - 5** | 4 pm

League play will be from Jan 15 - Mar 5, 2023. Practice is one hour prior to gametime.

Please be aware that there is a two-hour commitment at Bolles High School Stadium Field each Sunday.

Please call Rio Robinson at (904) 730-2100 ext. 250 with any questions.

\$165 | Valued member \$110



## 2023 Maccabi Games



**ISRAEL** IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
MACCABI WORLD UNION  
July 5–25, 2023 for ages 14–17



**FT. LAUDERDALE**  
August 6–11, 2023 for ages 12–16

San Diego was so incredible; we've decided to head to the JCC Maccabi Games® again!

We are currently recruiting Jewish athletes (ages 12 - 17) from Jacksonville to represent our Jacksonville JCA delegation at the 2023 JCC Maccabi Games in Israel and Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

With more than 2,000 participants expected from delegations across North America, Europe, Latin America, Israel and beyond, the Maccabi Games will feature sports like baseball, basketball, swimming, flag football, golf, ice hockey, dance, soccer, table tennis, tennis, volleyball and esports.

In Israel, teens (14 - 17) will experience three weeks of JCC Maccabi, including a week-long competition followed by a two-week immersive tour of Israel. In Fort Lauderdale, teens (12 - 16) will feel the magic of the week-long competition along with the traditional JCC Maccabi Games program highlights.

If your children, ages 12 - 17 (as of July 31, 2023) are interested in being on the Jacksonville JCA Maccabi Games team next summer, please contact Coach Rio Robinson via email: [rio.robinson@jcajax.org](mailto:rio.robinson@jcajax.org), or by phone, (904) 730-2100 ext. 250.



# NEW PERSPECTIVE AT OUR POOLS

By Beth Milograno, Communications & PR Specialist



"It is a privilege to watch so many children grow up at the JCA, learn to swim with us, and many, start their swimming career in our pools," explains Aquatics Manager Dustin Rulien who was just 16 years old when he started his career at the JCA. "I remember when the kids who are on our Makos Swim Team were born and first came to the JCA for our aquatics' programs. After watching from many positions through the years, I am excited to be able to put my personal touch on our incredible programs."

May 2023 will mark 13 years since our newly promoted Aquatics Manager walked into the JCA for his first day on the job as a lifeguard. Since then, Dustin has held many positions in our aquatics department, mentoring hundreds of young swimmers.

"Working with children is extremely fulfilling, especially when we see them advance their skills and gain confidence in the water," says Dustin. "Seeing children excel as they learn new strokes is rewarding because I know they are learning what they need to always be safe in the water."

After more than a decade at the JCA, serving as a lifeguard, swim instructor, flag football coach, basketball coach, summer camp director, and so much more, Dustin says the summer season is his favorite time of year.

"Summertime is the best because our pools are busy! Our summer swim team practices daily, we have lessons and free swim for every summer camper, not to mention the many families who come here to enjoy an afternoon or evening swim on a hot summer day," says Dustin. "I am fortunate to have built many long-lasting relationships with our valued JCA members and staff and am proud to serve our community. I look forward to doing this for many years to come."

## LEARN TO SWIM FOR ALL AGES

By Lydia Samples, Aquatics Coordinator

We've teamed up with our Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool & Kindergarten and the JCA Youth Services team to better serve families so they can utilize our incredible Learn to Swim programs, no matter how busy their schedules may be.

Our JCA Learn to Swim programs allow parents with children enrolled in JCA After School or in our preschool and kindergarten to take advantage of **Red Cross** aquatic instruction while their children are in our care. Our qualified and professional aquatics staff will escort participants from the classes or After School program to the pool for lessons. After a lesson, parents can choose to pick their children up from the pool or our staff will take them back to their classroom.

**The third session of our Learn to Swim programs at the JCA begins in November.** This monthly program introduces competitive swimming and stroke refinement along with building endurance and stamina in young swimmers.

**Parent & Me | Little Makos | Junior Makos**

Sun | Session III | Nov 20 – Dec 18 (five lessons, prorated)

Mon | Session III | Nov 7 – Dec 12

Mon and Wed | Session III | Nov 7 – Dec 14

Tue and Thu | Session III | Nov 3 – 15 (no lessons Nov 24)

One day a week: \$113 | Valued member \$75

Two days a week: \$180 | Valued member \$120

Prices are per session

**Private Swim Lessons (All ages)**

\$60 per lesson | \$420 for eight lesson package

Valued member | \$30 per lesson

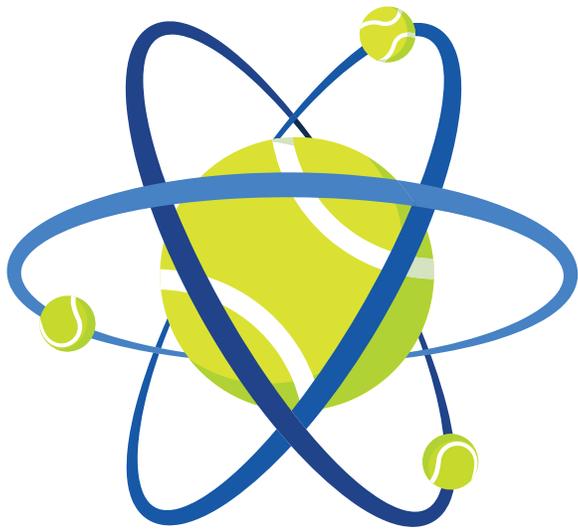
\$210 for eight lesson package

**Semi-Private Swim Lessons (All ages)**

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

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

**Private and Semi-Private Swim Lessons** are available throughout the year. Lessons are 30 minutes in length. If you have questions about **Learn to Swim** programs for children and adults or would like more information, **please email Dustin at [dustin.rulien@jcjax.org](mailto:dustin.rulien@jcjax.org)**.



# The Science for Success

**By Aline Berkenbrock, Tennis Pro**

In sports vocabulary, training means practicing a skill so that its execution is clean, efficient and automatic. Training for tennis involves repetition and conditioning, often coupled with both physical and mental challenges. When in play, whether it be for recreation or competition, it means relating to other players under rules defined by and agreed upon by all.

In the game of tennis, with one or two people on each side of the court and the goal of passing more balls to the other side, it is essential to have a great deal of mental and physical resilience – especially in high-performance play.

This is why we practice. Practicing involves the repetition of strokes and plays to specific targets on the court. Regular practice makes it so that when a player receives a ball, his or her body can automatically fire back the best ball possible for that situation.

There's a science behind achieving greatness on the court after many rounds of practice. Other than an increase in skill level, repetition leads to confidence, which some players say happens after hitting thousands of balls during practice. Within our body, the process of repetition generates muscle memory. Therefore, each ball we hit, whether it be high, low, with slice, topspin, fast or slow, generates a response from our body. It doesn't matter if it's a long, short, a point of contact near the shoulder or hip, muscle memory helps players achieve in the extremely varied game of tennis. No tennis ball will come at you the same way twice and it happens at a speed that does not allow players to think, prepare or bend your knees quickly to produce the desired stroke.

In short, those exhaustive repetitions on the court allow us to hit the ball in play without thinking too much. For us mere mortals, playing tennis is more enjoyable than anything else with the real achievement being the confidence we gain in our game. In addition to practicing point play, games and sets, players should also train for the emotional aspects of playing a tennis match. Practice your affirmation rituals between points, practice the changeover with rest, and stay focused on tactical decision-making.

Remember, practice games don't replace actual real match experience. That's why I recommend that in addition to practice, it is important for players to sign up for league play and tournaments. Players should choose tournaments and leagues that are appropriate for their technical level. When in the right league, practice is put to the test. That includes the full experience of emotions, twists, turns and athletic achievements involved in this fascinating sport.



**We currently have five teams at the JCA, Ladies' A, B, C, Working Women A and Men's 3.0 - 3.5. Every tennis team at our JCA participates in the First Coast Tennis League and plays matches at our JCA against other teams around our River City. If you are interested in joining one of our tennis teams, please contact me at [aline.berkenbrock@jcjax.org](mailto:aline.berkenbrock@jcjax.org).**



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

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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.

# WE ARE HONORED TO BE NAMED 2022

# BOLD CITY BEST



-  **BEST Non-Profit/Charity**
-  **BEST Preschool**
-  **BEST After School/Summer Camp**
-  **BEST Fitness Center and Gym**
-  **BEST Boss in Jacksonville,  
Adam Chaskin**



**THANK YOU FOR VOTING US THE BEST IN JAX!**