

Suncoast Jewish Alliance



Jewish Values and Ethics in Action

NEWSLETTER

April 2026

Mark Your Calendars

Conversation with Suncoast Jewish Alliance at Temple Beth
Israel

Living Room Conversation

March Recap

The League of Women Voters hosted a program on Sarasota Public schools, where Norman Olshansky, President of the Suncoast Jewish Alliance, was a featured presenter



Rabbi Jennifer Singer recently lead members of the Suncoast Jewish Alliance on a meaningful tour of The Embracing Our Differences Exhibit, exploring its powerful messages through a Jewish lens. Her thoughtful guidance invited participants to reflect on themes of dignity, inclusion, and shared humanity - core values deeply rooted in Jewish tradition. The tour offered a moving opportunity for connection, learning, and community engagement.





In the News: We Encourage You to Read

We encourage you to read this important recent editorial from the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, highlighting growing concerns about the safety and well-being of Jewish students.

Keeping Jewish Students Safe

By Norman Olshansky, Guest Columnist


We are increasingly concerned by the rise in antisemitism. The recent violent attack on Temple Israel in Michigan is yet another reminder that Jewish communities continue to face real threats.

Of particular concern is the growing hostility toward Jewish students on campuses across the United States, including here in Florida. Reports of harassment, exclusion, vandalism, and intimidation have increased -often tied to tensions surrounding the Middle East.

While open dialogue and debate are essential to a healthy democracy, they must never cross the line into targeting students because they are Jewish or perceived to be connected to Israel.

On campuses such as the University of South Florida, University of Central Florida, Florida State University, and the University of Florida, Jewish students have shared that they feel increasingly isolated and, at times, unsafe expressing their identity.

The Suncoast Jewish Alliance remains firmly committed to protecting both civil rights and free expression-while ensuring that Jewish students can learn, live, and engage safely and without fear.





**A Conversation with the Suncoast
Jewish Alliance
Friday Evening Shabbat Service
April 3 | 5:30 PM**

Temple Beth Israel welcomes a special presentation about the Suncoast Jewish Alliance during Friday evening Shabbat Service.

During the service Rabbi Mates will interview Normal Olshansky, who will share reflections on the Alliance's mission, it's work in our region, and opportunities for community engagement.

All are warmly invited to attend.

Please Join Our Living Room
Conversation with Friends!

Heavy Appetizers will be Served



**Discussing Antisemitism & Antizionism Rise
in Education with Mark Blaweiss, SJA
Board Member**

Sunday April 26, at 5 PM

Hosted by Natasha & Colin Reisner

**Kindly RSVP to
suncoastjewishalliance@gmail.com**

CRITICISM OF ISRAEL VS. ANTISEMITISM

ARE YOU CRITICIZING THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT?

YES

Are you **ONLY** criticizing Israel, while ignoring similar or worse abuses by other governments?

NO

Are you holding Israel to a standard you do not demand of any other country?

NO

Are you silent on actual genocides or atrocities elsewhere (e.g., Syria, Uyghurs, Sudan)?

NO

Do you blame **all Jews** worldwide for Israel's actions?

NO

Do you deny Jews the right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland while supporting it for others?

NO

Do you use antisemitic tropes, slurs, or slogans when talking about Israel ("global control," "from the river to the sea.")?

NO

Are you making statements about Jews in general (control, conspiracies, etc.)?

NO

Yoll'll're an antisemite

YES

You're an antisemite

YES

Antisemitism (singling out)

YES

Antisemitism (double standards)

YES

Antisemitism (selective outrage)

YES

Antisemitism (denying Jewish rights)

YES

Antisemitism (denying Jewish rights)

YES

Antisemitism (classic Jew-hatred disguised as politics)

LEGITIMATE CRITICISM

Renew Your Membership and/or Make a Donation

Check Out Our Website at
<https://suncoastjewishalliance.org/>

