



August 2025 Newsletter

The Alliance has been growing rapidly and continues to be very active this summer. If you have not already checked out our Facebook Group Page, please take a look. We have lots of great information about news and events.

Living Room Conversations

Living room conversations (LRC) are opportunities for members to meet in small groups, have a potluck dinner and discuss timely topics. Below are photos from recent LRCs. Our July LRC featured Dr. Bruce Abramson from New College. It was facilitated by former New College Professor Uzi Baram on the topic *The Stop Woke Act of 2022 and its Legacies for Florida Academics*. Discussion delved into the connotations of “woke” in years past the term’s used today. Dr. Abramson noted that teachers are still free to talk about controversial topics in classes, but must refrain from advocating any one specific opinion or action as “the truth.”



Coming Up

Our next Living Room Conversation will be held August 3rd, at 5pm in Nokomis. If you wish to join that discussion, please do so right away by emailing: suncoastjewishalliance1@gmail.com. Seating is limited.



*Come to a Living Room Conversation with Friends
and Potluck Dinner*



ANTISEMITISM: HOW SECURE ARE WE?

Discussion led by Tom Baugher, Community Security Director for the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, and facilitated by David Kaufman, SJA Board member



Sunday August 3, 2025, 5 pm

Hosted by Julie and Don Friedman

Please contact suncoastjewishalliance1@gmail.com to RSVP, for directions to their home, where to park and suggestions on what you can bring for the potluck.

We are in the process of planning a September 14th LRC with Reverend Wes Bixby of the First Congregational Church of Christ, co-founder of the Gathering in Sarasota. Look for the *Christian Responsibility to Fight Antisemitism* flyer with the details in an email coming to your computer soon.


Keep up to date with Sarasota County School Board Issues

How will Sarasota County Schools navigate funding cuts?

**A Conversation With
Terry Connor**

Wednesday, July 30th
6-7pm via Zoom
for more information
and to register go to
lwvsrq.org/events



ACTION YOU CAN TAKE RIGHT NOW



Please write to the Sarasota County School Board in opposition to proposed changes to Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment, Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedures, and Educational Equity policies. You may adapt and send this email to Sarasota County School Board members and Terry Connor, the Superintendent.

To: Superintendent Connor and Members of the School Board
schoolboardmembers@sarasotacountyschools.net
terry.connor@sarasotacountyschools.net

Re: Proposed Policy Revisions

Please do not revise these School Board policies:

- 2.71-Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment
- 2.71A-Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedures
- 2.73-Educational Equity

The proposed changes to these policies would weaken student and staff protections and increase the likelihood of harm coming to currently protected minority groups. Ironically the Florida state statute has increased protections for students against antisemitism and does not remove protection for religious groups because it is understood that it needs to be spelled out. We, in Sarasota County should not be moving in the opposite direction. Evidence shows that students and staff are better protected when there is specificity regarding harassment of particular groups rather than vague generalities

The Sarasota School District must not operate out of fear anticipating possible flip-flops in federal policy, but must operate out of concern for what is best to protect our students and staff from harassment.

Maurene Comey, an experienced prosecutor, warned, subsequent to her firing from the Department of Justice, that “fear may seep into the decisions of those who remain” and that “Fear is the tool of a tyrant, wielded to suppress independent thought.”

When people resist rather than cave, that resistance spreads. We have learned from Holocaust Education that going along, to get along leads to the empowerment of dictators. We need to stand up for what’s right for our children. Justice is not for sale.

Sincerely,

Your full name

Your city, Florida

Demonstrating for the Hostages Continue

Join Alliance members and others every Saturday morning at the Sarasota downtown Farmers Market and on Sunday evenings to advocate on behalf of the remaining hostages in Gaza. Alliance members are active participants and supporters of *Run for their Lives* and *Save The Hostages*. On Saturdays, meet at the Sarasota Farmers Market at 10am. On Sundays at 5:30pm, meet at Main Street and Orange Avenue in downtown Sarasota. Wear a red t-shirt or purchase a *Run for their Lives* shirt at run4lives.org. The group walks for 20 minutes holding posters of the hostages, Israel and American flags.



Standing up for Immigrants

The Alliance is a founding member and active participant with the Immigration Justice Coalition of Southwest Florida. Look for their Facebook Group Page.



**ONWARD & EMPOWERED of
FLORIDA, INC**

Adelante y Empoderados, de la Florida, Inc.

Presenta

IMMIGRATION: FACTS OVER FEAR
The Truth, The Law & The Lies



Sunday, July 27,
1:00pm program starts, light
refreshments & music
Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship,
322 15th St W., Bradenton, FL 34205

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

More info: Henry Raines, info@uknowa.com, 941-662-3031

- Why do people risk everything to live in the U.S.?
- What are the laws governing immigration?
- Why is I.C.E. disappearing non-criminals without legal status?
- How do you distinguish truth from lies?

Featured Guests:

Charles McKenzie
Human rights activist & public educator

Attorney CJ Czaia
Founder, Unidos Now & the Czaia Law Group

Attorney Victoria Bruno
Dubrule & Nowel PLLC - Experienced representation in immigration cases:
Asylum & Withholding of Removal, U Visas, Temporary Protected Status,
Deferred Action for Labor Enforcement, Parole in Place.
Accompanied by paralegal Veronica Rivera.



Website Upgrades



Website Improvements In Process

Check out the changes: www.suncoastjewishalliance.org

Alliance Board members Julie Friedman, Wendy Wicks, Tess Koncick and Norman Olshansky are working with Bonnie Hammer, our professional webmaster, to upgrade the Alliance website. We have added additional organizations with which we have formed programming relationships. We are also expanding our capacity to post recent letters to the editor and guest editorials submitted by our members. See drop down menu under "Members Speak Out."

Calling on Volunteer Time and Talents

How would you like to be our webmaster and maintain our website moving forward? Could you be the one to update our events' calendar. Perhaps you know someone who would make this a fun volunteer project? Maybe you'd like the Alliance help you craft a letter to the editor,

Speak for us at a formal or informal hearing? If you have something you'd like us to consider posting on the Alliance website, please email Norm: suncoastjewishalliance@gmail.com.

How YOU can Help the Alliance Grow



You could help the Alliance in many ways. Here are a few ideas:

1. Attend our events, demonstrations and collaborations.
2. Volunteer to serve on our Board, one or more of our committees, prepare e-blasts, newsletters and editorials.
3. Spread the word about what we are doing, recruit new members and/or assist with marketing.
4. If you are able, make a contribution over and above our standard membership fee.
5. Host an event or meeting in your home or clubhouse.
6. Schedule an Alliance presentation at your synagogue, Jewish Club or other social action group.
7. Follow us on our Facebook Group Page.
8. Share the attached Alliance ad to be published in the August 2025 *Jewish News*.

To talk about getting more involved with the Alliance, contact Norm:
suncoastjewishalliance@gmail.com.

You can use this QR code to access our website: www.Suncoastjewishalliance.org.



Stay Connected

Visit our website: suncoastjewishalliance.org
Email us: suncoastjewishalliance@gmail.com

