



## Newsletter – February 2026

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ A warm, relaxed evening of thoughtful conversation
- ◆ led by David Kaufman, exploring *The Art of War* and its relevance today



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



**The Art of War:**  
“You may abandon your own body but you must preserve your honour”  
Discussion led by  
David Kaufman, Esq & one of the founders of SJA  
**Sunday February 15th, starting at 5 pm**  
**Hosted by Julie and Don Friedman**

RSVP to [suncoastjewishalliance1@gmail.com](mailto:suncoastjewishalliance1@gmail.com) by February 7th for directions to their home. Bring your favorite dish for the potluck.



Tuesday, March 17, 5PM

Join us for a dynamic, guided experience of the *Embracing Our Differences* exhibit, led by Sarah Wertheimer, Executive Director of EOD, and Rabbi Jennifer Singer.

Explore powerful artwork through the lens of Jewish ethics and values, while discovering the stories and voices behind the artists.



Come for a Walking Tour of the Outdoor Exhibit at  
Sarasota Bayfront



## **Embracing Our Differences through a Jewish Lens**

Tour and Discussion led by

**Rabbi Jennifer Singer**

**Tuesday March 17, 2026, starting at 5 pm**

5 Bayfront Drive, Sarasota

Please RSVP to [suncoastjewishalliance@gmail.com](mailto:suncoastjewishalliance@gmail.com)

# Annual Membership Meeting Recap



**Our Annual Meeting was a great success, with strong participation both in person at the home of Joel and Felicia Servetz and on Zoom. Members elected new officers and approved the revised bylaws. We were treated a slide show highlighting the Alliance's accomplishments this past year. The evening concluded with a warm potluck dinner and singing of familiar Jewish songs led by Temple Beth Sholom Cantor Neil Taibel and Alliance Vice President Julie Friedman.**



*Congratulations!*

**Vivien Kalvaria, author of several Jewish books (see *My Name is not Rifka*), and an Alliance member, was recently accepted as a contributing writer to Aish and the Times of Israel.**



## **Mazel Tov to Our New Board of Directors**

**With gratitude and excitement, we welcome our new Board of Directors. Their willingness to step into leadership reflects a deep commitment to community, shared values and collective responsibility.**

<b>Norman Olshansky</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Julie Friedman</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Wendy Wicks</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Lisa Barzel</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Uzi Baram</b>	<b>Program Chair</b>
<b>Mark Blaweiss</b>	<b>Member at Large</b>
<b>Marcy Bernstein</b>	<b>Member at Large</b>



# Get Involved — Help Us Expand Our Reach

We invite you to be part of our growth and help amplify our impact:

- **Join a committee — Programming, Education, Immigration, Communications, or Fundraising**
- **Spread the word and help us welcome new members**
- **Host a Living Room Conversation in your home**
- **Invite us to present in the community or at partner organizations**

Your voice, your space, and your involvement make a difference.

Contact: [suncoastjewishalliance@gmail.com](mailto:suncoastjewishalliance@gmail.com)

## Recent Programs



We jointly sponsored a program on Book Banning with Temple Emanu-El



We made a presentation to Kol Ami Congregation in Tampa



We had a presence at the rally at the School Board against the resolution to support ICE in the



# Other Programs of Interest

CHABAD OF VENICE AND NORTH PORT PRESENTS IN COMMEMORATION OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY  
**A MORNING WITH SORA VIGORITO**  
**YOUNGEST KNOWN SURVIVOR OF MENGELE'S EXPERIMENTAL TWINS**  
*A historic opportunity to hear a surviving voice from Auschwitz's infamous "Angel of Death"*  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 4, 10:00 AM**  
 Doors Open: 9:30 AM  
**VENICE COMMUNITY CENTER**  
 396 NOKOKIMS AVE, VENICE FL 34285  
**TICKETS: [ChabadOfVenice.com/Tickets](http://ChabadOfVenice.com/Tickets)**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR  
**GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

**BUILDING BRIDGES**  
 Spring 2026 Discussion Series

**THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN-JEWISH CIVIL RIGHTS ALLIANCE SHARED LEGACIES**

Join Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., Civil Rights Leader and former NAACP Executive Director, and Rabbi Dr. Judy Schindler, Professor of Jewish Studies and Executive Director of Spill the Honey Foundation, for an inspiring film screening and conversation about the Black-Jewish partnership that helped shape the Civil Rights Movement—and offers hope and guidance in today's divided present.

**February 5, 2026**  
**7:00 PM**  
 Unitarian Universalists of Sarasota

Free & open to all. Space is limited. **Please register.**  
[BoxserDiversityInitiative.org](http://BoxserDiversityInitiative.org)

Our Partners

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL  
 The City of Venice, a City of Light

Temple Emmanu-El

cata  
 Conversations Across The Ages

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JEWISH CONGREGATION OF VENICE

WATCH THE TRAILER

SAVE YOUR SEAT

"Powerful and Inspiring." —World Jewish Congress

Advocates for Constitutional Values **ACV**  
 Upholding our American constitutional rights and values through empowering the respectful exchange of information and ideas.

Come and hear about the mission and work of the Immigration Justice Coalition of Southwest Florida

Presented by:  
**Barbara Smith-Bacon**  
 Chair of the Coalition's Education Team

The Immigration Justice Coalition of Southwest Florida is a community of people who advocates for and supports our immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seeking neighbors.

Sunday - February 15, 2026  
 2:00—3:30 p.m.  
 First Congregational UCC  
 1031 S. Euclid Ave, Sarasota FL 34237

Guests are welcome - Bring a friend!  
 As there are costs related to our meetings, we kindly request a \$3—\$5 minimum donation per person.

Advocates for Constitutional Values is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization open to anyone interested in addressing current political issues and finding solutions.

For more information, please contact [AdvocatesForCV@email.com](mailto:AdvocatesForCV@email.com)



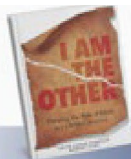
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A discussion between a Muslim and a Jewish Attorney about shared goals in troubled times

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**Monday, February 15, 2026 | 6:30 PM**  
Unitarian Universalists of Sarasota  
3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota, FL 34232

Join "" for a moderated discussion with the authors of **I AM THE OTHER**, **Imam Azhar Sube** m, 1111kml ci h00111e. nd Rob111? G Py, 11 m 1111M.Cr of Temple Ot' 0h .0u.1 iurL, ...n"bt: i .ny 0nd.1 n1...r1, 11ur pml'l 00-y<-11' v. : 0(h flnt US Justice Department. *A dessert reception will follow*



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RSVP REQUIRED BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12.  
Limited Seating - Reserve to save your spot!  
Contact: [eventsuucs@gmail.com](mailto:eventsuucs@gmail.com)

Register Below!



**FEB. 17 7:00PM** **AN EVENING WITH FORMER HOSTAGE COUPLE KEITH & AVIVA SIEGEL**

**RIPPED APART & REUNITED**

Keith and Aviva Siegel were abducted from their home in Kibbutz Kfar Aza during a Hamas attack. They endured brutal conditions in captivity: Aviva for 51 days, and Keith for 484 days, making him **ONE OF AMERICA'S LONGEST-HELD HOSTAGES.**

Keith faced isolation and deprivation, while Aviva endured hunger and fear, witnessing torture and sexual violence. Despite unimaginable trauma, they survived and now speak out to raise **AWARENESS ABOUT RESILIENCE AND THE FIGHT AGAINST TERROR.**

**RESERVE NOW**  
[fedsrq.org/events](https://fedsrq.org/events)

**Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee**

February 17 at 7:00pm  
The Ora at the Morganroth Event Center  
578 McIntosh Rd, Sarasota, FL 34232

If you have questions, contact Carol Dierksen at [cdierksen@fedsrq.org](mailto:cdierksen@fedsrq.org) or 941-263-4974

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No cost to attend.  
To register, please visit:  
[www.zoa.org/events](http://www.zoa.org/events)  
Sponsorship opportunities listed in link above.

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**Beyond the Classroom:  
Key Issues Shaping Education  
in Sarasota County Schools**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
5:45-7:00pm Gulf Breeze Library  
**Free**

Learn more and register [www.sarasota.org/events](https://www.sarasota.org/events)

**WV WLCU**

