

# THE CENTER VIEW

ELUL - TEVET

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER



**Center for  
Jewish Life**  
at Beth David

L'SHANA TOVA  
and may you be sealed  
in the Book of Life

COMPASS



As a third-generation member of Beth David, this community has shaped who I am. Our temple has always been a place of connection, tradition, and family – values I carry into everything I do.

Whether you're looking to find your first home, your forever home, or simply want a trusted neighbor's advice, I'm here to help. Real estate is what I do, but community is who I am.

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## FALL 2025

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Dear Friends,

**As we begin a new year at the Center for Jewish Life at Beth David, we're embracing a powerful theme:**

*Investing in Ourselves.*

In Pirkei Avot, we're taught: "Im ein ani li, mi li?" – If I am not for myself, who will be for me? This ancient wisdom reminds us that self-investment is not selfish – it's foundational. It's what allows us to stand strong, care for others, and build something that lasts.

This year, we're making bold moves to ensure Center for Jewish Life at Beth David continues to be a place of depth, warmth, learning, and connection – not only for those who are here now, but for generations to come.

**And we've already begun.**

This summer, we started vital infrastructure upgrades – including new A/C systems and roof renovations – so our campus is more resilient and welcoming. We've also reconfigured parts of our building to create additional classrooms for our growing school. As more families join us, we're preparing to meet that demand with care and intention.

We're also investing in our people. By refining staff roles and sharpening focus, we're building a team that's more aligned, effective, and ready for the work ahead.

**Looking forward, we've identified three core goals for the year ahead:**

**1. Finalize and Activate Our Strategic Plan**

We've spent the past year listening, planning, and aligning. Now we're ready to implement a strategic roadmap that will guide our next chapter – with clarity, accountability, and shared purpose.

**2. Build a Working Board**

Our Board of Directors is evolving into a working board – an engaged team of leaders who are not only guiding but actively helping to carry out our mission.

**3. Launch the 40 Forward Campaign**

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Gordon School – a sacred milestone in our community's story. To celebrate and build on that legacy, we're launching 40 Forward, a capital campaign to reimagine and renew our physical spaces. The first phase includes a full renovation of our event areas to make them more vibrant, flexible, and welcoming. The next phase: a brand-new school building that will serve future generations of students. A key step in this effort is securing cornerstone gifts to help bring this vision to life.

Everything we're doing – from bricks and mortar to strategic plans and spiritual leadership – is grounded in the belief that our community is worth investing in.

Thank you for being on this journey with us. May this year bring strength, purpose, and blessing to all the work we do together.

**B'AHAVAH,  
RABBI JULIE JACOBS & IRIS DESTEPHEN**

## 40 FORWARD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

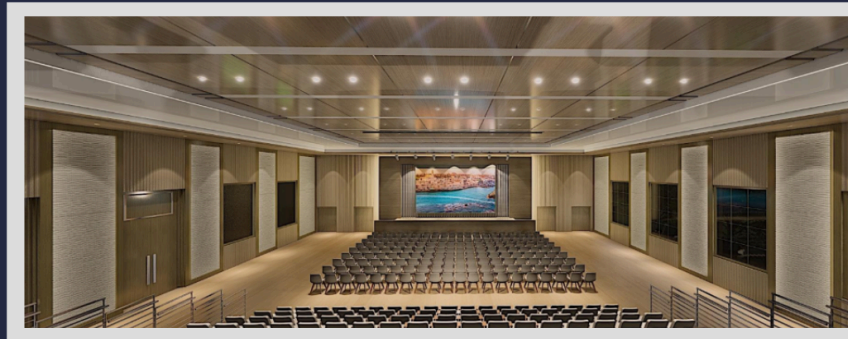
### It's time to build what comes next

We proved the model works, now we need a modern, multipurpose space to stay competitive, scale, and serve a rapidly evolving community



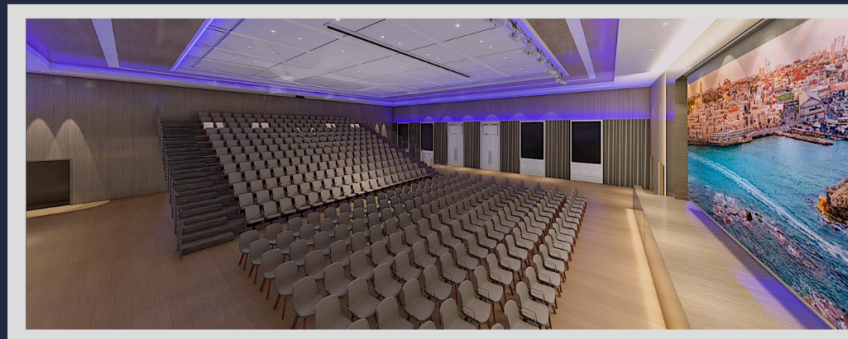
### Stay Competitive and Relevant

Purpose-built, multipurpose spaces allow us to run more programs, serve more people, and adapt quickly as community needs evolve.



### Flexible Design for Maximum Impact

A modern space helps us attract families, talent, and funding in an increasingly competitive landscape.



### This is more than a gift. It's a generational legacy.

We invite you to consider a **Capital Campaign Pledge** to catalyze this next chapter.

Your leadership in Jewish renewal can inspire the next generation and help build a space that expands access and leaves a lasting legacy. **With your support, we could break ground by early 2026 and by 2028, welcome over 300 students onto our campus. Contact us at [Ichavez@centerbd.org](mailto:Ichavez@centerbd.org)**

# UPCOMING

5785/6 | 2025

## September

9/01 Labor Day  
9/05 PJ Shabbat  
9/08 Family Dodgefest  
9/13 Selichot  
9/19 Shabbat Pasi3n  
9/22 Erev Rosh Hashanah  
9/23 Rosh Hashanah Day 1  
9/24 Rosh Hashanah Day 2  
9/23-24 Shanah Tovah Mini Camp

## October

10/1 Erev Yom Kippur  
10/02 Yom Kippur  
10/02 Yom Kippur Mini Camp  
10/06 Sukkot Mixer  
10/06-13 Sukkot  
10/14 Shemini Atzeret  
10/15 Simchat Torah  
10/17 Shabbat Pasi3n  
10/25 Eli Siman Bar Mitzvah

## November

11/01 Lizzy Esther Segal Bat Mitzvah  
11/21 Shabbat Pasi3n  
11/24-11/26 Gobble Gobble Mini Camp  
11/27 Thanksgiving

## December

12/06 Gisela Saverin Bat Mitzvah  
Havdallah  
12/13 Shoshana Silver Bat Mitzvah  
12/19 Hanukkah Family Shabbat  
12/22-12/30 Winter Break Mini Camp

## January

1/09 Pet Shabbat  
1/10 Paz Carter Bat Mitzvah  
1/16 Shabbat Pasi3n  
1/17 Olivia Oklan Bat Mitzvah  
1/24 Bella Grace Bat Mitzvah

Dates are subject to change.  
Please check the online calendar  
for up-to-date information:  
[centerbd.org/calendar](http://centerbd.org/calendar)



**SCAN HERE  
FOR CALENDAR**

# SOUL SEARCHING | LIFE ENRICHING | LEGACY BUILDING

The past few months have been a whirlwind of activity, growth, and community building at the Center for Jewish Life at Beth David. We've seen incredible events, meaningful programs, and inspiring moments that have brought our community closer together. Here are some **highlights**:



Tisha b'av with Shalev Biton



Camp Shemesh



Shabbat Pasión



Paint, Pour + Party



Mahjong



Brotherhood Challah Bake



Sundays at the Center



Camp Shemesh



Enrichments

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## RABBI NACHSHON CARMİ

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### Shalom

My name is Rabbi Nachshon Carmi, and I am honored to begin my role as Associate Rabbi at The Center.

I started in July, and now, with the Gordon School and Sunday School back in session, I feel the excitement and energy of our community growing stronger every day.

I hope to contribute to every branch of The Center. Each Tuesday and Thursday morning I pray with the Gordon School students, and during this special season leading up to the High Holidays, I have the joy of sounding the shofar for them daily.

I am teaching our Judaism 101 course, which introduces Jewish ideas and practices for newcomers—yet I warmly invite those raised in Jewish life to join us for a refreshing new perspective. On Shabbat mornings, I will also anchor our Torah study session, diving into the depth of meaning in the weekly reading.

After the High Holy Days, I will begin a new series, Sanctified 365, where we will explore how Jewish teachings speak to pressing questions of today—such as new technologies, ethical investments, and intimate relationships.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the conversion of several students from last year's Judaism 101 class, and this coming February I look forward to officiating my first Center wedding, where the groom is a proud graduate of our school.

Beyond The Center, I am engaged in the wider Miami Jewish community, including serving on Mosaic's Interfaith Clergy Council and building meaningful relationships with rabbinic colleagues across the city.

One of my personal goals is to get to know as many of you as possible this year. If you'd like to meet for a conversation over your drink of choice, please reach out. I would also be honored to visit your home to affix a mezuzah and share ways to make your home feel more Jewish.



Outside of my rabbinic work, gardening is my greatest passion. I am always happy to share tips on growing food—whether it's parsley in a pot, fruit trees in your backyard, or anything in between. I am eager to learn about your own passions and gifts. I believe that belonging to a community is rooted in giving. We are born to give, and we feel most alive when our gifts are received and celebrated.

The Judaism I live and teach is joyful: joy in giving, joy in overcoming challenges and transcending limitations, joy in deep conversations and authentic connections.

Allow me also to introduce my family, who are equally excited to join The Center's community:

- My wife, Ilene Prusher, is an accomplished journalist, author, and award-winning professor. She has been recruited by the University of Miami to lead its graduate program in journalism and strengthen its media partnerships.
- My son, Eli, is a talented dancer and a freshman at New World School of the Arts High School.
- My daughter, Zahara, is a published poet and writer. She previously studied communications at Bak Middle School of the Arts in West Palm Beach and is now in the broadcasting magnet program at South Miami Middle School.

All of my family of origin lives in Israel, where we spent a wonderful month this summer. We are eager to share our stories and insights from that time.

I invite you to connect with me online, where I share updates about my work and opportunities to learn and pray together:

👉 [Facebook.com/rabbicarmi](https://www.facebook.com/rabbicarmi)

I look forward to meeting you and building a joyful community together at The Center.

**Warmly,**  
**Rabbi Nachshon Carmi**

# YESODOT

## FOUNDATIONS OF JUDAISM



9/11-5/28 | Thursdays



6:00-7:30 PM

## SANCTIFIED 365



10/22-5/27 | Wednesdays



6:00-7:00 PM

## PARSHA UNPLUGGED



Beginning Wednesday October 15



7:30-8:30 PM



Discover Classes

# PROGRAMMING UPDATE

## Chaverim – Friends,

At the Center for Jewish Life, our community is alive with energy, curiosity, and connection. Every season brings new opportunities to learn, celebrate, and grow together—and this quarter is no exception! From Shabbat gatherings that ground us in tradition to exciting programs that spark joy and curiosity, there truly is something for everyone.

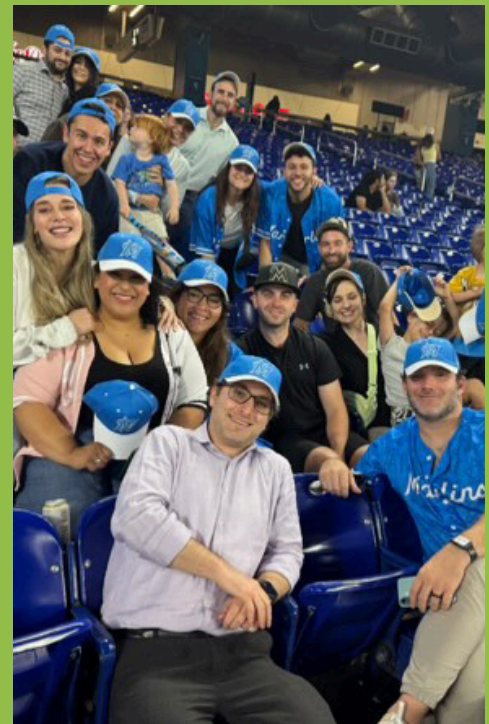
Here's just a glimpse of what's happening:

- ✨ **Shabbat Pasi3n, Family Shabbats & Challah Bakes** – sharing meaning and meals together
- 🎵 **Center Musical, High Holy Days programming (with Joanie Leeds!) & Guest Speakers** – inspiration for all ages
- 🎮 **Latkes + Bingo, PJ Pajama Party during Hanukkah, Dodgeball for the Family & Mahjong** – joyful moments that connect us
- ⚽ **Athletics for ECC, Day School, and Tikvah students, plus Soccer for Adults**– fun and fitness across generations
- 🎶 **Tuesday Night Choir, Parsha Unplugged, Sanctified 365 & Judaism 101** – music, study, and reflection
- 🍵 **Chai Five Youth Group for Post B'nai Mitzvah Students, Shofar Blowing Workshop, Espa3ol Class** – learning, leadership, and laughter

Our programs reflect the heart of who we are: diverse, welcoming, and full of life. Programs of diversity. Programs of curiosity. Programs for the entire family. Programs for all!

My door is always open—I invite you to stop by, share your ideas, and join us in shaping the vibrant future of our Center. Let's grow together!

**Noah Schalit, Director of Programming**





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**I will donate 10% of my commission which originates from friends and family of The Center for Jewish Life at Beth David.**

## Learn Piano or Voice with Ivan Conrad!

### Why Choose Ivan?

- **All levels welcome** – From beginners to advanced
- **Flexible pricing** – Options that work for you
- **Virtual or in-person** – Lessons that fit your schedule
- **Variety of styles** – Pop, classical, musical theatre & more
- **Piano improvisation** – Ivan's custom curriculum to keep piano playing creative and fun

### About Ivan

- 20+ years as a professional pianist, vocalist, and educator
- 100+ operatic and musical theatre roles performed worldwide
- Master's Degree in Performance – Manhattan School of Music
- K-12 Music Education degree – UNM
- Soloist at Carnegie Hall and in concerts throughout Italy, Germany, Greece, and over 30 United States
- 13 years based in NYC working with top industry professionals

"Ivan is a very gifted teacher who knows how to bring out the best in every student. Plus he's so much fun for my younger children!"

– Current Parent

"I never thought I'd be able to sit down at a piano and create beautiful music on my own, but Ivan gave me both the tools and confidence to do so. I highly recommend him!"

– Current Student



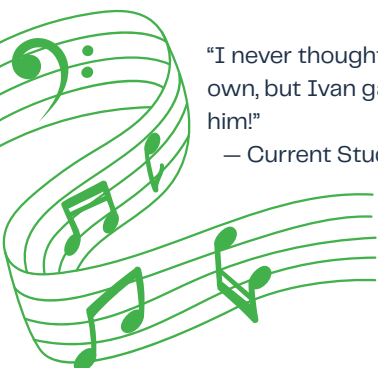
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Email  
[ivan.conrad.music@gmail.com](mailto:ivan.conrad.music@gmail.com)




# HIGH HOLY DAYS 5786

*You belong here.*

## ROSH HASHANAH


EREV ROSH HASHANAH,  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

### Service & Cocktails


 6:30 PM

1ST DAY ROSH HASHANAH,  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23


### Morning Service

 9:00 AM


### Children's Service with Joanie Leeds

 10:30 AM


### Musaf Service

 11:45 AM


### Family Service with Rabbi Carmi and Joanie Leeds

 4:00 PM

### Tashlich


 5:30 PM

### Rosh Hashanah Dinner


 7:00 PM

2ND DAY ROSH HASHANAH,  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

### Morning Service

 9:00 AM


### Musaf Service

 11:45 AM


## YOM KIPPUR

KOL NIDRE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

### Mincha


 6:30 PM

### Kol Nidre Service


 6:45 PM

YOM KIPPUR, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2


### Morning Service

 9:00 AM


### Family Service by Joanie Leeds

 10:30 AM


### Social Justice Event

 3:00 PM


### Torah Study with Rabbi Carmi

 4:00 PM


### Mincha

 5:00 PM


### Neilaha

 6:00 PM

### Havdallah

 7:00 PM

### Final Shofar


 7:00 PM

## PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN

SHANAH TOVAH CAMP  
ROSH HASHANAH DAY 1 & 2

 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

YOM KIPPUR CAMP

 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM



# Joanie Leeds is back!

We are beyond excited to welcome back **Joanie Leeds**, Grammy Award-winning artist and beloved Jewish musician, to the Center for Jewish Life at Beth David this **High Holy Days season!**



Joanie will be sharing her incredible energy and music with our community by:

- Leading our **childrens services**
- Adding song and spirit to **Tashlich**
- Bringing joy to our **Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur Mini Camps**

**Don't forget:**

- ✓ **Secure your High Holy Days tickets**
- ✓ **Register your kids for our Mini Camps today!**



**YOU BELONG HERE**  
High Holy Days 5786

# A NOTE FROM OUR ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

**Dear Friends,**

It is such an honor and joy to be back at the Center for Jewish Life and the Gordon School! For those who don't know me, my name is Nicole Sperling, and I am thrilled to step into the role of Engagement Manager. For the past three school years, I've had the privilege of serving as the Admissions Director here at the Gordon School, and now I am excited to expand my work into community outreach, programming, and family engagement.



A little about me—my family and I moved to Miami from New York three years ago, and we immediately found our home away from home here at the Center for Jewish Life and the Gordon School. My daughter began her journey here as a one-year-old who couldn't even walk, and now she's a proud Pre-K student climbing the stairs to class on her own. My son recently joined the Infant Program in the ECC, which I was fortunate to help launch.

In my new role, I'll be actively involved in all of our wonderful community happenings: from Sunday programming and MazerTOT (our Mommy & Me program) to special events like the Fall Festival on September 27th at Douglas Park—and many new and exciting opportunities still to come!

Most importantly, I am here for YOU—our families, our community, and every individual who makes this place so special. Whether you're new to CJL, looking to get more involved, or just want to connect, I am always here to support and engage with you.

It truly feels like coming home, and I am grateful to be part of this incredible community. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, ideas, or simply to say hello.

L'Shalom,  
Nicole Sperling

# Social Justice Committee

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR. NO EXCEPTIONS.

אַהֲבַת לְרֵעִךָ כְּמוֹךָ

## Mission

Social Justice is Judaism's unifying mandate, central to who we are as Jews and what we do in contributing to Tikkun Olam, repairing the world – through direct service, Tzedakah (Righteous Giving), and advocacy.

**Loving our neighbors by being good neighbors is the basis of our ongoing Overtown programs – JOIN US!**



Every month, the Social Justice Committee volunteers at community shelters, supporting their kitchen staff + serving meals to those in need. Want to make a difference with this team?

Email: [paula@withoutboundaries.com](mailto:paula@withoutboundaries.com)

Lotus House: Every 1st and 3rd Thursday (11 AM - 2 PM)

Chapman: Every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday (4:45 PM)

**“Acts of kindness never die. They linger in the memory, giving life to other acts in return.”**

**Rabbi Jonathan Sacks Z”L (Optimism to Hope)**

## Yom Kippur Social Justice Hour: Gepsie Metellus

Our migrant communities are under siege! As we learned last year, Miami is Ground Zero for extreme heat – and especially hard on our marginalized populations. In partnership with WeCount!, we will hear firsthand from Homestead nursery workers about inhumane working conditions and how we can help. Haitians are also part of that beautiful, essential work force. Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center Executive Director Gepsie Metellus will give us a close-up look at how current immigration policies pose an existential threat to Haitians and the entire migrant community – a dark cloud that hangs over everything else they do. Join us on Yom Kippur to put our Jewish values to work for Social Justice on this holiest of days. Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof "Justice, Justice, we must pursue!"

## Upcoming Social Justice Meeting Dates:

**Thursday, September 11 | 7 PM**

**Thursday, October 9 | 7 PM**

**Thursday, November 17 | 7 PM**

**Thursday, December 11 | 7 PM**

**Thursday, January 8 | 7 PM**

\*All meetings take place via Zoom

# GORDON SCHOOL

As we begin the 40th year of the Gordon School I am happy to announce that on the first day of school we welcomed 170 students to the Gordon School for the start of the new school year! This represents a continued growth for our school, we have two Kindergarten Day School classes, two Kindergarten Tikvah classes, and two 1st Grade Tikvah classes! Our Day School has grown by 18% from last year and we have a record number of Tikvah students that are now fully mainstreamed into their grade-alike Day School classes for the entire day. Due to the continued growth of the Gordon School we have repurposed our library space in the Center, and made two brand new classrooms, that will house our 7th Grade Day School students, and our Hebrew curriculum classroom. Thank you to our wonderful teachers and school/center staff for all that they have done to help us to continue to grow our terrific school so quickly!

It has been such a pleasure working over the summer to prepare the school for the new year. We have such talented Directors in each of our divisions: Morah Sarah Zamikoff, ECC Director, Ms. Veronica Alter, our new Day School Director, and Ms. Andrea Diez, our Interim Tikvah Director. Ms. Lauren Jacobs, our Tikvah Director, will be returning to the school in September, after taking maternity leave over the summer. We have several new teachers and staff joining us this year, and we are all very excited for what we know will be a wonderful school year.

We continue to strengthen our overall curriculum in many areas, and have added additional Hebrew class time in the Day School each week, so that we can continue to focus even more on the conversational Hebrew skills of our students. We are also adding additional units in our Judaic curriculum to involve all of the students, in all of the divisions, in doing Tikun Olam projects (making the world a better place) and learning about and practicing the mitzvah of Tzedakkah (helping others).

In the Day School we have added two new Academic Coaches that will provide additional remedial support for those students who need it, as well as working with those students that can benefit from an even more advanced curriculum. This year we are also offering a healthy snack option for the students each day that families can purchase, in our effort to provide nutritious and delicious food options for the students.

Our 40th Anniversary Year promises to be a memorable year as we embark on our 40 Forward Campaign to raise funds to renovate some of the existing spaces in the Center, and to build our new school building that will allow us to have the space we need to continue to grow the Gordon School. Please help us to continue to share the news about our warm, welcoming and inspiring school to all of your friends and neighbors!

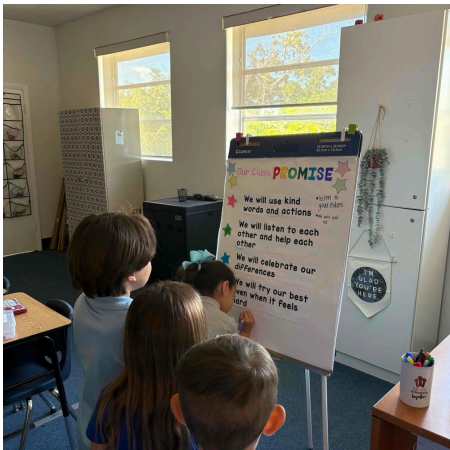
Wishing all of you a very sweet and peaceful New Year.

B'Shalom

Bini W. Silver, Head of School

# A GLIMPSE INTO GORDON

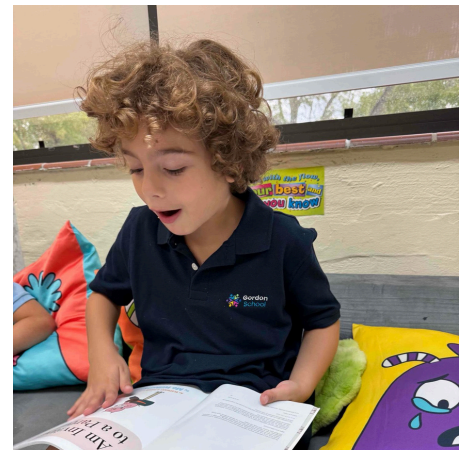
The school year is off to a joyful start at Gordon School! From the very first day, our classrooms have been buzzing with curiosity, creativity, and connection. Students have already begun building lasting friendships, exploring new subjects, and embracing the values that make Gordon such a special community. With engaging academics, inspiring Jewish learning, and a warm, supportive environment, we are looking forward to a year filled with growth, discovery, and celebration.



2nd grade



7<sup>th</sup> grade



Tikvah Kindergarten



Dubmin (2's)



Dagim (infants)



Namarim (3's)



# Move & Groove with Tikvah



Sundays  
August 24–December 14



9:30–10:30 AM



**Center for Jewish Life at Beth David**

This is a fun family program that happens every Sunday. Each week we do a different sport or activity – soccer, basketball, fitness, and yoga. The coaches from Pros2Go will lead the sessions. It's made for Gordon families with kids of all ages. Families can move, play, and spend time together while learning new skills.

Scan to  
register



# GIVE MIAMI DAY

Give Miami Day is almost here  
November 20!

We're thrilled to invite you to join the Center for Jewish Life at Beth David in making a lasting impact on our community. With Early Giving open from November 15 to 19, you have even more opportunities to participate and show your support.

This year, our Give Miami Day campaign is dedicated to expanding access to education by providing more scholarships for Gordon School students. Your generosity ensures that children in our community can experience an excellent Jewish education, regardless of financial circumstances. Each contribution directly supports our students' growth, empowers families, and strengthens the future of Jewish life in Miami.

Every gift—big or small—fuels vital programs, empowers lives, and strengthens both Center BD and the Gordon School. Together, let's make this Give Miami Day our most impactful yet. Visit our page at [GiveMiamiDay.org/CenterBD](https://GiveMiamiDay.org/CenterBD) to learn more and make your gift or scan the QR code to pledge early!



# Sundays at the Center

Energize your mornings with a dynamic lineup of activities!

## Kindergarden - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

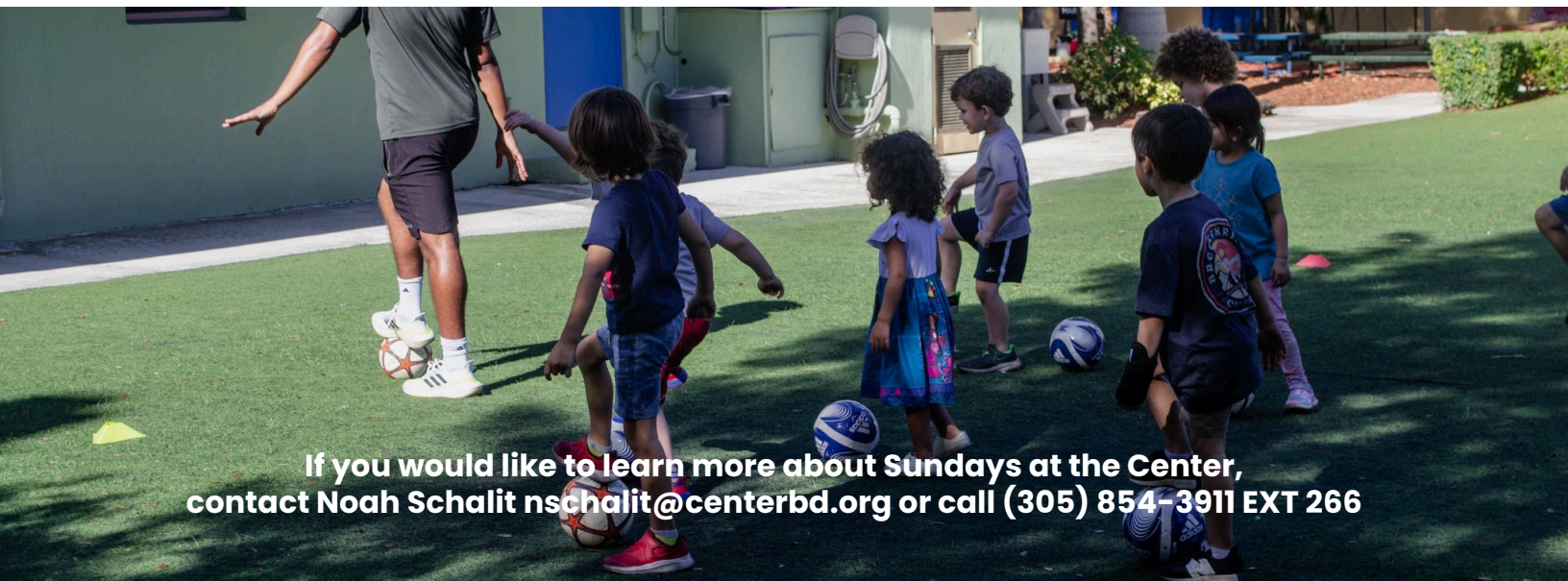
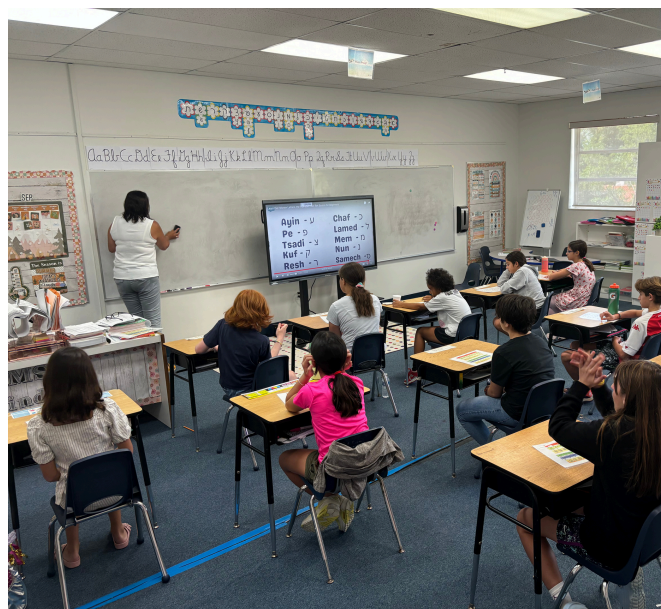
- 9:00 – 9:45 AM — Stories & Hebrew Fun with Rabbi Carmi & Hirsch
- 9:45 – 11:00 AM — Snack break & Music & Dance with Ms. Ali
- 11:00 – 12:00 PM — Jewish Arts & Crafts

## 3rd – 5th Grade

- 9:00 – 10:00 AM — Athletics & Active fun
- 10:00 – 11:00 AM — Exploring Torah through text, art, and Hebrew with Rabbi Carmi
- 11:00 – 12:00 PM — Judaics with Hirsch

## 6th – 8th Grade

- 9:00 – 10:00 AM — Athletics & team play
- 10:00 – 11:00 AM — Judaics with Hirsch
- 11:00 – 12:00 PM — Deep dive into Jewish identity with Rabbi Carmi — Behaving, Belonging, Believing



If you would like to learn more about Sundays at the Center, contact Noah Schalit [nschalit@centerbd.org](mailto:nschalit@centerbd.org) or call (305) 854-3911 EXT 266



## 2025 Enrichment Programs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
All Sports	Center Musical-Aladdin	Soccer - Pros2Go	Makers Club - Nexlore	Chess Mates
Karate	Inventors' Lab	The Yum Club	Mini Hoopers - Pros2Go	Minecraft - Nexlore
Tennis - Pros2Go	Obstacle Course - Get Moving	Violin Vibes	Yoga Flow	Pickleballers - Pros2Go
Tiny Tales and Big Words	Crafty Creations	Mad Science	Ballet Blossoms - Pros2Go	Spin & Sculpt
Karate	Obstacle Course - Get Moving	Soccer - Pros2Go	Little Hands Pottery	Break Dancing
Little Yogis	The Yum Club	Torah Tots	The Garden Patch Kids	Hola Amigos!
	Energize!	Sensory Exploration	Tiny Stars Theater	Little Yogis
			Tiny Tales and Big Words	Mini Makers

### Guide



Day School & Tikvah



ECC



ECC 2's

**For more information contact:**  
**afarr@centerbd.org**  
**(305) 854-3911 EXT 206**

# NO SCHOOL? NO PROBLEM MINI CAMPS ARE HERE!



NOVEMBER  
24TH - 26TH

DECEMBER  
22ND - 30TH



When school takes a break, the adventure begins at our Mini Camps! Packed with exciting activities, hands-on projects, games, and plenty of fun with friends, our camps are the perfect way to spend the day off. Join us for unforgettable holiday adventures—because days off should feel like a celebration!

For more information contact:  
Amanda Farr, Director of Children Services  
afarr@centerbd.org  
(305) 854-3911 EXT 266

**Center for  
Jewish Life**  
at Beth David



**Gordon  
School**

# — A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS —

Dear Friends,

When I think of the Center for Jewish Life at Beth David, I think of family—a place where we come together to pray, celebrate, learn, and share life's moments.



While our officers are already familiar with our building, they are still getting to know us as individuals. I ask that you welcome them with kindness and patience as they carry out their important work on our behalf.

In recent years, we've placed special care on keeping our community safe and making sure our historic building remains as warm and welcoming as the people inside it.

For those I haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting, allow me to introduce myself. I grew up in northern Argentina, in a small but inspiring Conservative Jewish community, and later earned a degree in Tourism and Hospitality in Paraguay. From there, I made Aliyah to Israel, where I lived in Tel Aviv, served proudly as a Combat Medic in the IDF Search and Rescue Unit, and built a career as an Inflight Crew Coordinator with a major airline.

Eventually, I moved to Florida, where I worked in the military subcontracting industry before making Miami my home. Five years ago, I discovered the Center, and it quickly became my home too. Whether through the Brotherhood or the privilege of occasionally leading Kabbalat Shabbat, I have always felt deeply connected to this community.

A few months ago, I was honored to step into a professional role at the Center, where my love for this community has only grown. In the past two months, we have welcomed a new team of Security Officers and begun nurturing a culture of safety and care.

Looking ahead, we will soon conduct on-site safety training and complete upgrades to our cameras, alarms, and access systems. These efforts are not just about security—they are about creating peace of mind so that we can continue to gather, celebrate, and pray without worry.

At the same time, our historic building—so full of stories and memories—remains at the heart of all we do. Thanks to our dedicated team working tirelessly behind the scenes. Our space is kept clean, organized, and cared for with a devotion that truly feels like a family tending to its home. When you see them, please take a moment to thank them for their quiet but essential work.

I also know that many of you carry wonderful ideas and dreams for the Center which I warmly invite you to share with me. Together, with patience and care, we can bring them to life and continue building a future worthy of our beloved community.

With warmth and gratitude,  
**MAURO FLAM**



# SHABBAT *pasión*

**September 19th | October 17th  
November 21st | January 16th**

**7pm**

**A friday evening that infuses Jewish prayer with Latin-influenced music**

**Childcare from 7-9:30 pm  
Includes play in the cafeteria, fields  
& playground, kiddush at 7:45pm,  
& children's dinner in the cafeteria**



**Center for  
Jewish Life**  
at Beth David

Service also available on Zoom.

# Donations from 5/1/25–8/15/25

## General Fund

Supports a variety of The Center's initiatives depending on the most pressing current needs.

Stephanie Ansin      Rena Mashav  
Alfred Martin      Nachshon Carmi  
Brad Rosenblatt      Daniel Fujita  
Iris Destephen      Beryle Greenberg  
Elizabeth Gordon  
Beryle Greenberg

## Programming Donations

We're so grateful for our community's donations to the Center's programming. Your contributions empower investment in events, courses, and activities that spark exploration of a thriving Jewish life.

Shari Dembowsky  
Juan Dunque Ballejeros  
Brad Rosenblatt  
Tania Kat

## Women's League

Supports the many activities of Women's League

Mindy Hirsch  
Michelle Merlin  
Wendy Traurig-Perlin

## Merlin Educational Fund

Provides scholarships for members' children to attend Day School or Religious School at The Center, or for High School in Israel.

Adrienne Jaret

## Yahrzeit Fund

Donations in memory of loved ones help to maintain yahrzeit records and memorial plaques

Sandra Friedman      Steven Garron      Stephanie Ansin  
Phyllis Bloom      Ruther Kessler      Ira Silver  
Allan Bass      Herbert Cohen      Sandra Friedman  
Sybil Benazera      Phyllis Bloom      Rhoda Heimlich  
Ruth Kessler      Donna Phillips      Bette Spector  
Wayne Riskin      Ira Birns      Sharon Feingold  
Miriam Brejt      Paula Saltzman      Gail Silver  
Denise Amini      Evan Friedman      Susan Schaffer  
Rita Norton      Steven Gissin      Edith Brilliant  
Marlene Krantz      Judith Richard      Ruth Kessler  
Carlos and Lydia Don      Ira Kurzban      Ainslee Ferdie

## Chesed Fund

Provides support for feeding the homeless through a relationship with Chapman Partnership for the Homeless.

Jackie Traurig

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Provides tzedakah and for a variety of programs and projects at the discretion of Rabbi Jacobs.

Vivian Reingenheim  
Dr. Jack Wolfsdorf  
Martin H Rafson  
Ira Warshaw  
Stuart Rosenberg  
Paula Saltzman  
Faith Krause  
Suzy Robinson

## Sam & Clarice Badanes G'Milut Hasadim Fund

Deeds of Loving Kindness - Provides aid to our members to cover unforeseen costs such as funerals, medical bills, and emergency travel. May also support education and training for facilitating the shift from tenancy to home and small business ownership.

Shirley Sweeney  
Alissa Burns

## Brotherhood Fund

Support the many activities of Brotherhood including Shabbat Passion & Soccer & Cervezas

Moshe Etzioni



If you're interested in making a donation to support our funds and initiatives, please visit: <https://operations.daxko.com/online/5376/OnlineGiving/Donation.mvc>

# Donations from 5/1/25-8/15/25

## Waas Preservation Fund

Maintain and improve Center facilities

Jennifer and Jason Bartowski and Dyke  
Cori Sheckman  
Iris Sheckman  
Alex Sheckman  
Rita Chaiken  
Craig Ettelman  
David Scharlin  
David Auslander  
Deborah Hurwitz  
Roberta Kressel  
Bruce Litwer  
Eric Tinstman

Abraham Benyunes  
Nancy Carr  
Brandon Jordan  
Leslie Genauer  
Robyn Solomon  
Ilene and Milton Hirsch  
Geoffrey Sherman  
Roslyn Pass  
John Salmon  
Penny and Ross Pawliger  
Ossie Hanauer  
Jane and Al Blake  
Mike & Susan Nevel

Rebecca Toonkel and Eden Couriel  
Tamara Landau  
Jill Hershbein  
Jeffrey and Lilana Agron  
Faith Krause  
Charles Mendlestein  
Jacqueline Traurig  
Karen Fine Rubinstein  
Neil & Aida Littauer  
Howard Ettelman Family  
Bernard Weissman  
Paula and Mickey Finkle  
Marc & Judi Lederhandler  
Sheila Forman



VOTED *MIAMI'S* FAVORITE  
REAL ESTATE AGENT

*Proud to be a Gordon School  
Parent, Beth David Congregant,  
and Brotherhood Member*

ERIC FARMELANT  
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WORK WITH ME



ERIC FARMELANT



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