November 2022 Volume 2 Issue 3



President's Message From Tammy Woldenberg

As much as I love all the Jewish holidays, I really look forward to November as Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday of them all! As an "American by Choice", it represents what being a citizen of this country is about. We have so much to be grateful for! What a weird coincidence that "hodu" the Hebrew word for turkey, also means to give thanks! Amazing right?

As Jews we look for a deeper perspective on gratitude. The Jewish way is filled with "thank yous," prayers and blessings for every food and life event. But true gratitude to G-d for the good in our lives requires a commitment and must be expressed in deeds and actions not just at one meal.

I take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you for all that you do to impact our community in Miami and the Jewish community around the world. Let's continue our meaningful work together to ensure that Jews at home and in Israel have blessings to be thankful for every day moving forward.

Sending each of you and your families our best Thanksgiving wishes on behalf of Women's Philanthropy!

Campaign Update

As the year is quickly coming to an end, there is still \$6.3 million outstanding from more than 2,700 donors who haven't committed yet. The clock is ticking; time is running out. We are counting on you to meet the challenges of these extraordinary times. Please reach out to those you are assigned to and let them know. It's a good time to wish them a Happy Thanksgiving and discuss their Jewish commitment and sense of gratitude. If you need an updated report of your assignments, please contact the office.

To date we are happy to report the following:

- The **2022** General Campaign has raised \$18.6 million from more than 5,000 donors with a card-for
- -card increase of 13.41 percent.
 We are proud the Women's Campaign has raised \$5.6 million from more than 2,700 donors with a card-for-card increase of 15.38 percent.

Give Miami Day



Your donation of any size to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation through GiveMiamiDay.org on November 17* will fund a network of more than 160 vital programs and services in Miami, in Israel and more than 70 other countries worldwide.

A COMMUNITY-WIDE DAY OF ONLINE GIVING

For every donation between \$25 and \$10,000 made to the Annual Greater Miami Jewish Federation/UJA Campaign on GiveMiamiDay.org, Federation will receive an additional donation from The Miami Foundation.

The Women's Event

We are SO excited about our upcoming signature program *The Women's Event* on **Wednesday**, **January 18**, **2023** chaired by Leslie Benitah. As you are aware, this event raises significant dollars to provide ongoing vital services and humanitarian relief programs to so many who turn to Federation as their safety net. Be on the lookout for the invitation and announcement of our guest speaker — coming soon to your inboxes. You will not want to miss it. It promises to be another great day for our community. We hope to see you there!



International Lion of Judah Conference



LAST CALL to sign up for the International Lion of Judah Conference (ILOJC) with over 800 women expected. If you have not yet done so, please register to join the Miami Community in celebrating the 50th anniversary. **See link below.** We are so proud that the Lion of Judah program was created in Miami in 1972 by Norma Kipnis Wilson, z"I, and Toby Friedland, z"I. It is now an international phenomenon. We will gather together in person to pay tribute to its accomplishments and its founders. In addition, WP Past President Fran Berrin is this year's Miami recipient of the prestigious Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award and will be honored at the Conference. An invitation to attend is also being extended to all female-identified daughters, daughters-in-law, nieces and granddaughters of Lions ages 21-31. Space is limited.

Bat Mitzvah Hits a Milestone

Did you know that 2022 marks the 100th anniversary of the coming-of-age, rite-of-passage *Bat Mitzvah* celebration? When Judith Kaplan, daughter of Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan, the founder of the Reconstructionist movement, became the first American girl to have a *Bat Mitzvah* ceremony on March 18, 1922, she had no idea that her actions would change Jewish communal life forever. Judith's grandmothers disapproved and she was concerned about how her peers would react to her doing something that was so different from the norm. For decades after *Bat Mitzvah* became an option, girls and their families were reticent to do something that felt different or untraditional. But something unexpected happened along the way: As increasing numbers of girls ascended the *bimah*, girls and women began to expect — and demand — access to ritual honors and synagogue leadership. *Bat Mitzvah* firsts were a catalyst for expanding all women's participation in Jewish life and paved the way for people of all genders to mark their coming-of-age in new and inclusive ways.

Today the *Bat Mitzvah* is an important milestone and a link in a continuous chain of religious and spiritual experiences for all Jewish girls. Women who for some reason never marked this rite-of-passage often decide to have an adult *Bat Mitzvah*, as a milestone in their journey as a learner of Judaism. There are also those who have an optional "second *Bat Mitzvah*" as an opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to Judaism and bring their loved ones together.



Judith Kaplan Eisenberg at her second Bat Mitzvah ceremony



Judith Kaplan on her way to her Bat Mitzvah

Federation's Overseas Partners Bring 209 Ethiopian Olim to Israel

In September, Israel welcomed 209 Ethiopians, reuniting many with family members already in Israel and fulfilling their lifelong dream of *aliyah*. Included among the group of Jewish Agency – one of our overseas partners – and Federation leaders accompanying the *olim* on the momentous flight from Ethiopia were: Sheree Savar, Chair of the Ethiopian-Israeli Initiative and Women's Philanthropy Past President; Kent Savage; Dr Jaime Ghitelman, International Division Chair; Yosef Shwedel, International Division Co-Chair and Israel & Overseas Committee member; and Dahlia Bendavid, Israel & Overseas Director. The Jewish Agency is spearheading Operation Zur Israel, which will bring 3,000 Ethiopians to Israel by the end of this month. They will continue to support the newly arrived Israelis with Hebrew language studies, job placement and acculturation classes as they acclimate to their new home. Sheree Savar shared this inspiring and moving experience at the recent Board meeting.







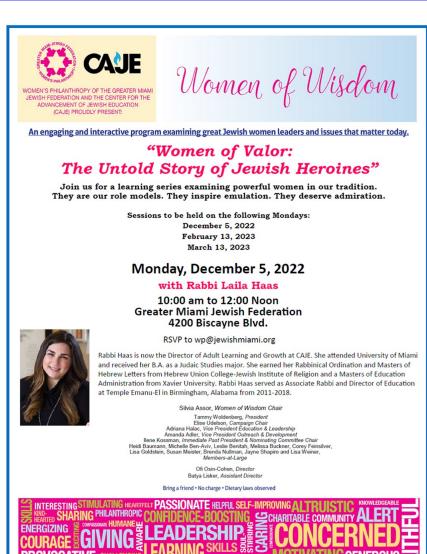
Israel at 75 Miami Mega Mission



Join our Miami community April 20-27, 2023 to celebrate this monumental moment. The cost is \$3,975/person for double occupancy. The itinerary includes: 5 nights in Jerusalem, 2 nights in Tel Aviv, 6 unforgettable Mega Events, 5-star hotels, meals, all touring, tips and more! Additionally, there is an option to join our Pre-Mission to Poland April 17-19, 2023 (currently waitlist only).

For more information and to register, please see below.

Women of Wisdom



Sharing & Caring

Celebrating an Event? Milestone? Or had a loss? We want to know. Please be sure to send us the information. If we don't know, we can't share and care (wp@jewishmiami.org)

Mazel Tov to:
Annette Raij on the birth of a baby boy
Adriana Halac on the birth of 2 grandchildren
Susan Meister on her son's recent marriage

<u>Condolences to</u>: Brenda Nullman on the loss of her father