



BUILDING IT
Together
THE CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE



HONOR OUR LEGACY. IMPACT THE FUTURE.

MISSION

There is no greater cause than making a positive impact on the lives of others; that is the mission of The Center for Jewish Life. Central Miami's growing population has put before us the task of creating a multi-use space to engage our community, educate our children, and provide an inclusive home for those who yearn for a place to belong and strengthen their faith.

VISION

Our vision will create new and better facilities for prayer, play, and events to better serve the community. By building it together, The Center for Jewish Life will be a spiritual, educational, and recreational space that will engage and strengthen our community for years to come. Together, we aspire to not only reach the campaign's goal to build The Center for Jewish Life, but also to continue raising funds to create a sizable endowment to ensure future sustainability and growth.





LETTER FROM RABBI JACOBS

I remember vividly, over fifteen years ago, driving into Miami for the first time and pointing out to my husband and young children our apartment building overlooking the Brickell skyline. Coming from New York City, with grounded roots in Jewish Community and Jewish education, I wondered with anticipation what Central Miami would offer my growing family. I grew up in an active congregation where children crowded the sanctuary and in a JCC where I swam several times a week and participated in musical theater. I wanted this for my children, but quickly learned that in our immediate area such a community didn't exist, as the closest Jewish Community Centers were thirty minutes away.

Years passed, and Central Miami began to grow as more and more young families with small children moved in. It became clear that an inclusive and welcoming community-centered project was greatly needed to engage this new and diverse population. From this need, the idea of The Center for Jewish Life was born. For the past couple of years, we have worked with volunteers, community leaders, architects and experts in an effort to make our vision a reality and to bring much needed and transformative change to the Central Miami area.

As we anxiously await the moment when we can all gather again to celebrate and share our faith, we look to you, our supporters and community, to help us make The Center for Jewish Life a reality. This is an awesome undertaking that will meaningfully impact generations to come and dramatically improve not just our Jewish community, but the Greater Miami community as a whole. I can only hope that you are as excited as I am to see The Center for Jewish Life come alive and that you will find ways to support this project, financially and otherwise. With your support, we will build an extraordinary place for learning, gathering and faith.

THANK YOU,
RABBI JULIE JACOBS

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

KAREN COPPA,
CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

As my teenage sons get older, one of my biggest priorities is figuring out how and where we can enjoy time together, and how Judaism can remain relevant in our lives. Why can't we have a place of Jewish identity where everyone in my family will want to spend time? The answer is, we can. That will be the role of The Center for Jewish Life for my family and yours. That's why my husband and I have pledged our money, time, and expertise to make this dream become a reality. While I have been a proud and active member of the Beth David and Gordon School family for more than 15 years, the transformation of the campus and all that it will offer, cannot happen soon enough. The Center for Jewish Life will be a place where people of all ages and backgrounds will want to celebrate life's milestones, meet up with friends for a pick-up basketball game, take a cooking class, shop at a weekly farmers market, squeeze in morning minyan to start the day, send their kids to school or just grab a cup of coffee. I want The Center for Jewish Life not just for my family, but for every person who would enjoy and flourish at a campus with so much to offer spiritually, recreationally, and educationally.

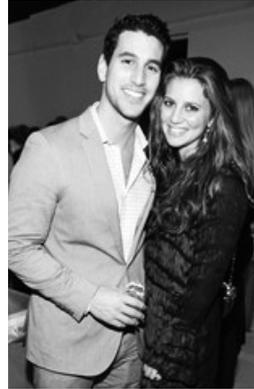


STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT



**STEPHANIE ANSIN
AND SPENCER STEWART**

Now is the time to focus resources on creating a safe and inspiring campus for Jewish people and our allies. Let's do this now. Let's do this together. Let's create a beautiful home away from home that nurtures our bodies and souls, educates our minds, and provides a spring board for serving a wide range of individuals in need.



**MARISSA
AND SHAWN AMUIAL**

Now more than ever, we need to feel supported and united as a community; we need infrastructure to support the vibrant Jewish life that continues to grow in Miami's urban core, and we need a place to ground growing families. Now is the time to create a sense of permanence and sustainability for our community. The vision for the Center for Jewish Life Miami gives us hope that there will be an anchor in the urban core for Jewish life to flourish for generations to come.

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT



NORMAN AND NANCY LIPOFF

The Center for Jewish Life is an important project for the Jewish community. It

is located in the center of Greater Miami, where the demographics show a growing, young Jewish population. What a great asset to have on one convenient campus a Jewish Day School, a Jewish Community Center and a spiritual center!



THE MERLIN FAMILY

Our family has been part of Beth David since the 1920's! Our children, Elysa, Rachel and Craig

are 4th generation Beth Davidites and among the first wave of students to attend the Gordon School from 18 months through 5th grade. The Center for Jewish Life will ensure that Beth David remains the central address of the Jewish community where we can learn, pray, and play for generations to come!



THE SCHARLIN FAMILY

Our children are third-generation Miami natives. They grew up in Coconut Grove and attended the

Gordon Schools. Beth David has always been our one-stop shop for Jewish spiritual and mental fulfillment. We know that The Center for Jewish Life will make a great thing even greater! We weren't able to provide this trifecta for our children, but we're thrilled to help ensure that it will be there for the next generation!

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT



JAY SPIELER

I was born into Beth David over sixty years ago. Through the years, I've celebrated so many special moments here with my family and friends. Lucie and I are pleased to be members here together for 30 years. I wish nothing more than that other, younger members are blessed with the involvement and experiences that will provide them their own wonderful memories at The Center for Jewish Life in the years to come.



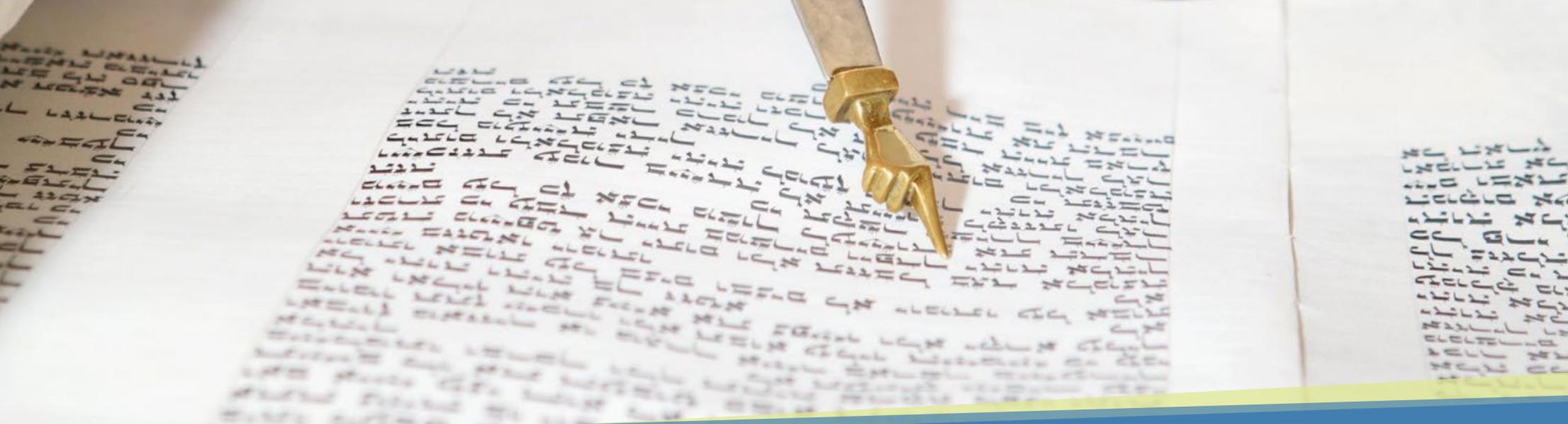
WENDY TRAUIG

It has been an honor to participate on the Advisory Board for The Center for Jewish Life. The growing needs of the Jewish community in the Central Miami area are clear evidence that its time to modernize, enhance, and grow our facilities and programming. I want history to show we demonstrated dedication and responded to the need by building a top-notch facility supporting the needs of our educators and, most important, our students in decades to come. To be a part of this undertaking is a tremendous privilege.



THE ZAKARIN FAMILY

Arlene's grandparents were among the small group that founded Beth David. Even as the congregation swelled over generations, innovation and vitality often depended on committed members acting individually and collaboratively. Our involvement in developing the Tikvah Center has reaffirmed for us that this remains true today. What a few people have accomplished to benefit so many children and their families is just one example of what we all can contribute to now and in the future.



THE CAMPAIGN

The growing and diverse Jewish community of Central Miami needs a home. The Center for Jewish Life will be that home. It is time to strengthen and engage the community in a collaborative effort. This endeavor will be created for and in collaboration with Miami's unique and diverse community. Children, young adults, families and older members of our community will make The Center for Jewish Life their preferred place to meet friends, learn, play, pray, and celebrate. The capital campaign for The Center for Jewish Life, "Building It Together", provides an opportunity to build upon our Jewish heritage, honor our legacy, impact the future, and allow us to share our traditions and core values, preserving them from generation to generation (L'dor V'dor).

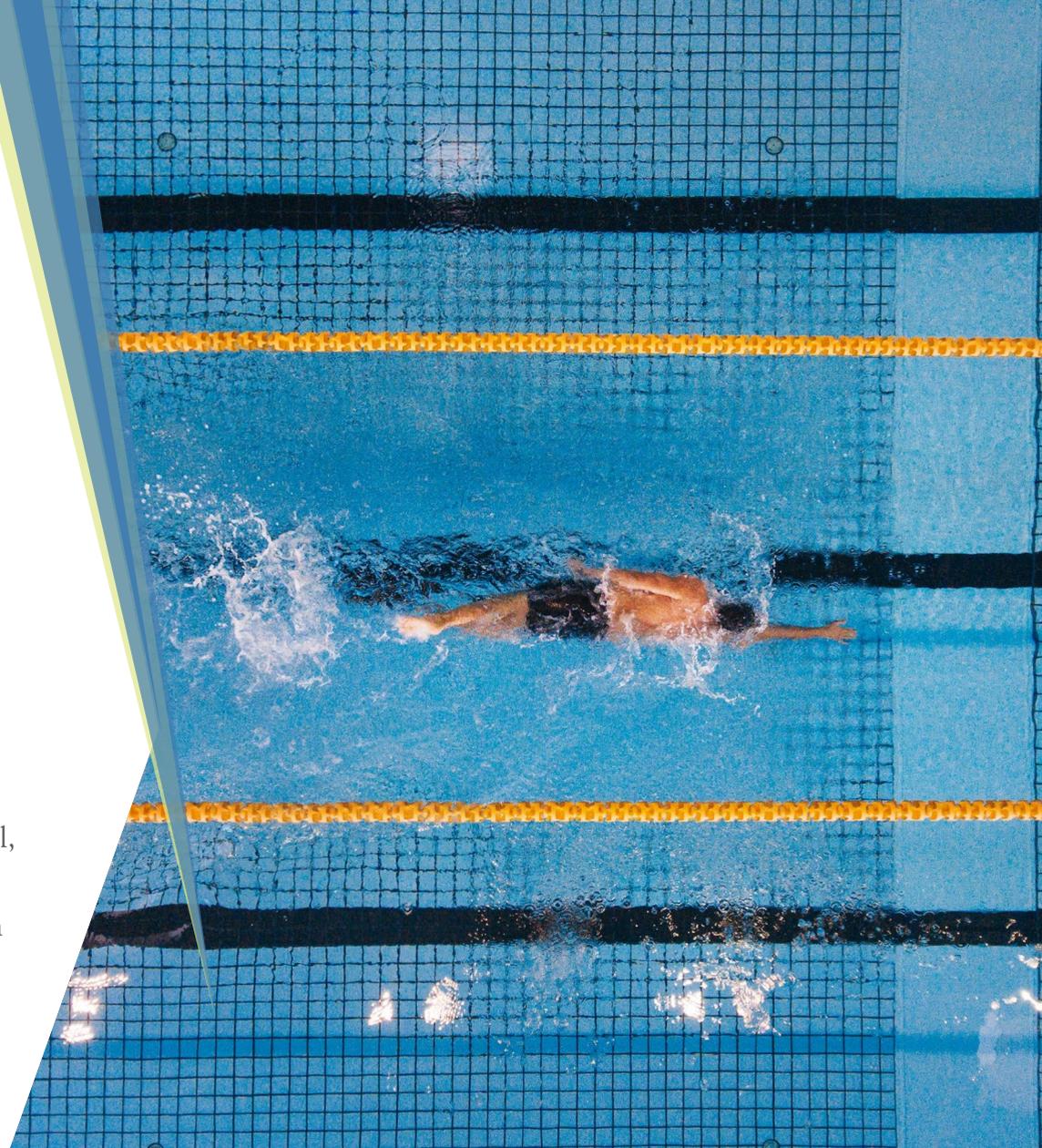


**THIS ENDEAVOR WILL
BE CREATED FOR AND
IN COLLABORATION
WITH MIAMI'S
UNIQUE AND DIVERSE
COMMUNITY.**

FACILITY

The Center for Jewish Life will fulfill the social and spiritual needs of Central Miami. The Center will be equipped with recreational facilities to serve people of all ages and interests and will provide the community with the best in early childhood and elementary education. Also, The Center for Jewish Life will proudly serve as the new home to the renowned Tikvah Center for Autism and Miami's oldest synagogue, Beth David Congregation.

This state-of-the-art facility will not only serve as a premier venue for life cycle events, early education and prayer, but it will also feel like a second home. A welcoming place where people will gather to create and share meaningful experiences for years to come. The Center will ignite community engagement and feature a multifunctional event space with stage and conference venues. The athletic facilities will include a lap pool, gymnasium, soccer field, and fitness center. With all of these amenities, The Center for Jewish Life will bring our community closer and serve as a national model for other Jewish communities.



COMMUNITY



The Central Miami community is rapidly changing and growing. More and more younger families are coming to build their lives and raise their children here. For many years, we have heard their needs for a place to belong to, a place to grow their faith. They are seeking a spiritual home for themselves and their loved ones; one that will be an extension of their family where they feel accepted and included.

The Center for Jewish Life will be their home, and that of so many people who seek spirituality, excellence in education and meaningful friendships. To keep the community thriving we need to provide facilities and programming that engage and allow us to learn from one another. As our world faces more and more difficult times, it is the spirit of community and support that allows us to rise above these challenges. The Center for Jewish Life will be more than just a building, it will be a symbol of inclusivity and the future of Judaism. The heart and spirit of Central Miami lies within us, and it is with this spirit that we embark on this journey to build a shared place of transformation and hope.



EDUCATION

The project's crown jewel, The Gordon School, will thrive with new classrooms and expanded athletic facilities. The Early Childhood Center (ECC), K-5, and renowned Tikvah Center for Autism will grow in demand and stature, preparing our children for success at the next level. The campus will serve as an anchor for the Brickell, Central and Greater Miami academic landscape. The Gordon School will be designed to envision our community's potential for growth, and in the future, allow us to accommodate a top-notch middle school and high school. With additional classroom space to accommodate multiple classes per grade and specialty rooms, the new facilities will fulfill the needs of our diverse and growing community.





THE NEED

The 2014 Greater Miami Jewish Federation Population Study revealed an emerging Jewish population residing in the Downtown, Brickell, Key Biscayne, Midtown and Design District areas that straddle North and South Dade. According to the study, this area has experienced explosive growth since 2014, tripling the number of households to 3,600 and expanding to nearly 7,000 people in Jewish households. This burgeoning area has a very young population, with 40% ages 18-34 and 15% children ages 0-17.



**THE JEWISH POPULATION
IN CENTRAL MIAMI HAS
EXPERIENCED EXPLOSIVE
GROWTH SINCE 2014.**

86%

LIVE IN HIGHRISE
BUILDINGS

33

MEDIAN AGE OF
PERSONS IN JEWISH
HOUSEHOLDS

\$111K

2013 MEDIAN
HOUSEHOLD INCOME

3%

HOUSEHOLDS ARE
CURRENT MEMBERS
OF A LOCAL JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER

23%

HOUSEHOLDS
REPORTED SYNAGOGUE
MEMBERSHIP

39%

OF ADULTS IN JEWISH
HOUSEHOLDS ARE
FOREIGN BORN

THE STATS

THE CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE will be a community-centered, all new campus designed to serve as Central Miami's premier venue to gather, play, learn and pray. It will be comprised of the following buildings/areas:

WELCOMING SPACE:

2 STORY SUNLIT ATRIUM with a centrally located café and garden view, that will serve as a space for all to come together.

BETH DAVID CONGREGATION AND EVENT SPACE:

6,500 SQ FT

FLEXIBLE SANCTUARY SPACE for prayer, services & special events

5,000 SQ FT

DIVISIBLE EVENT SPACE with a removable stage for performances

THE GORDON SCHOOL:

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

KINDER TO 5TH GRADE

TIKVAH CENTER FOR AUTISM



33 CLASSROOMS DESIGNED AS MODERN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS, ALLOWING FOR 3 CLASSES PER GRADE.



RESOURCE CENTER

To provide access to learning materials.



SPECIALTY LABS

For science, music, art, media, and makerspace.

ATHLETIC FACILITIES:

For school and community use

12,500

SQ. FT FULL COURT GYMNASIUM



5,000

SQ. FT FITNESS CENTER WITH WALKING TRACK



PLAYGROUNDS

Toddler and Grade School Playground.



SPORTS FIELD

For soccer or lacrosse.



FITNESS SPACE

For classes such as yoga, dance & indoor cycling.



ROOFTOP AQUATICS PARK

Full-length 25-yard, 6 lane lap pool & splash area.

THE TIMELINE

We are committed to playing a more significant role in the lives of our neighbors and our community. By building The Center for Jewish Life, we will create a social, spiritual, educational and recreational space that will strengthen and engage the Central Miami community in a more inclusive and diverse way. With your support, The Center for Jewish Life will honor our legacy and impact the future.



IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN 30 YEARS SINCE THE GORDON SCHOOL WAS BUILT. NOW IS THE TIME FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE TO BRING A COMMUNITY-CENTERED PROJECT TO THE ROADS AREA.

FALL 2020

PUBLIC PHASE OF
THE CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN BEGINS

SUMMER 2022

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

SUMMER 2024

DATE OF COMPLETION

OUR LEADERSHIP

Advisory Board

- Stephanie Ansin
- Karen Coppa, Chair
- Iris Destephen-Fujita
- Joseph L. Falk
- Susan Weiss Firestone
- Eric Kleinman
- Robert J. Merlin
- Mark Paresky
- Stuart Rosenberg
- Jay Spieler
- Jackie Traurig
- Wendy Traurig-Perlin
- Arlene Zakarin
- Lynn Gordon

Building Committee

- Michael Adler
- Alan Amdur
- Daniel Fujita
- Jennie Fine
- Ronald Krongold
- David Martin, Chair
- Brandon T. Moore
- Jay Spieler
- Amy Scharlin
- Melody Torrens

Professional and Religious Leadership

- Rabbi Julie Jacobs
- Iris Mizrahi, Executive Director





JOIN US

We hope everyone that is part of the Beth David and Gordon School family, as well as the Central Miami community is excited to bring about transformative change through The Center for Jewish Life. Through your generosity, we can and will better serve the needs of our community.

Together, we can build The Center for Jewish Life.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

WWW.BUILDINGITTOGETHER.ORG | (305) 850-6880 | KAREN.COPPA@BUILDINGITTOGETHER.ORG

