

ISSUE 6  
SPRING 2021

# LAS OLAS JEWISH LIFE

**THE BACKSTORY  
OF THE  
DELICIOUS  
FRIENDSHIP  
CAFE!**

**TRY A TRIED  
AND TRUE  
SHABBAT  
RECIPE FROM  
THE REBBETZIN!**

**COVID:  
HOW LAS  
OLAS  
CHABAD  
RESPONDED**



LAS OLAS  
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



## **Issue 6 Las Olas Jewish Life**

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# A place to make lasting memories.

There are so many different facets of Las Olas Chabad Jewish Center. Everyday there is something else going on; from a mask giveaway and a women's event to a holiday celebration or kid's program. Go into the center on any given weekday, and you will see people from all walks of life meeting, catching up, networking or grabbing a bite at the iconic "Friendship Cafe" where they train young adults with special needs to thrive in the hospitality industry. In addition to its worthy mission, the food at this novelty restaurant does not disappoint.

To say it simply, Las Olas Chabad Jewish Center is an excellent place to be affiliated with, as you never know who you're going to meet or when you're going to feel that spiritual spark you've been desiring for so long.



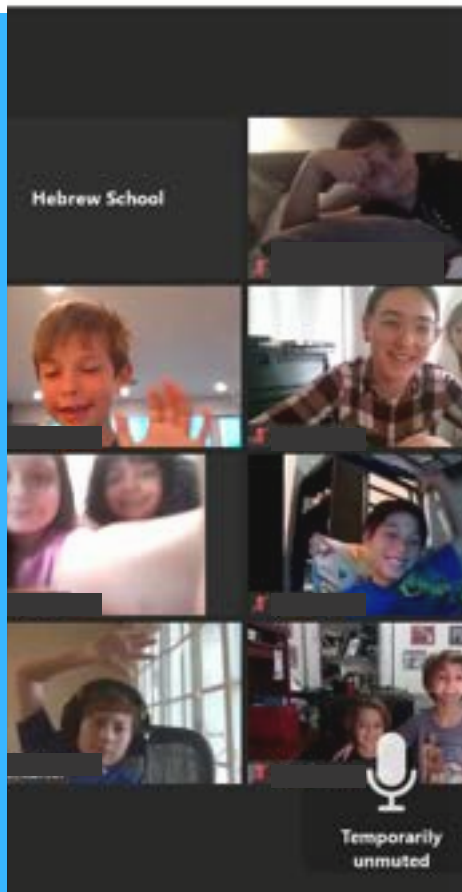
# THE BEAR FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL TEACHES TODAY'S YOUTH OUR ESSENTIAL CULTURE!



Nestled in the heart of Las Olas is a warm, nurturing place which caters to teaching your child all of the essentials of Jewish culture and heritage, as well as everything he or she needs to know leading up to their bar or bat mitzvah.

Using a hands-on approach in bringing Judaism to life, The Bear Family Hebrew School continues to thrive on Zoom!! Several teachers and volunteers come together for two hours every Sunday to make magic happen in our young people's lives! Children have been known to truly enjoy this fun and educational experience and come out with some very wonderful friends.

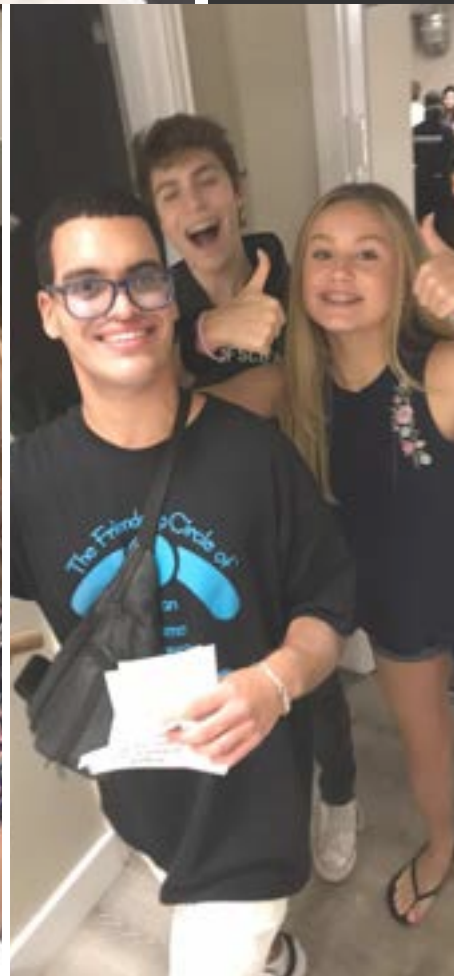
If you would like to register your child at The Bear Family Las Olas Hebrew School, please visit our website, [LasOlasHebrew.com](http://LasOlasHebrew.com).



# THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE OF GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE:



*WHERE CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS GET THE FRIENDSHIP THEY SO DESERVE!*



At The Friendship Circle of Greater Fort Lauderdale, we understand that our special needs friends crave deep and meaningful friendship and connection just like the rest of us! To support our friends in their quest to find a wonderful, loving group of friends and comrades, we provide fun & exciting activities for children and adults alike, where they get the opportunity to connect to volunteers in their age range from the community to build lasting friendships!

Each get together brings new fun; varying from Cupcake Wars to gymnastics, karaoke, arts & crafts, Magic Shows, Ventriloquism, Zumba, Yoga & more!

During covid-19, we did an about face & took our programs virtual, offering daily and weekly zoom programs for both our children & young adults with special needs. We saw the great need to give our friends the opportunity to stay connected with our wonderful volunteers & continue feeling some stability amongst the chaos happening around them. Thank G-d, this has proven a huge success and our special friends are thriving!

To join The Friendship Circle family, log on to [FriendshipFL.org](http://FriendshipFL.org) & Register!



**ALWAYS HAPPY TO HOST GUESTS!**

Congressman Ted Deutsch dropping in for a visit to have a bite and spend time with the wonderful Friendship Cafe crew.



**TRAINEES IN TRAINING**

Our trainees with special needs learn all the skills necessary to work in the hospitality industry!



**A WIDE VARIETY OF EXPERIENCES**

A large variety of doors are open to young adults with special needs who train at the cafe!!





# SHAWARMA FOR THE SOUL

By Dean Myerow

The Friendship Cafe is 1 year old! Although our story has just begun, it is a classic love story. We love our special friends and admire them as they continue to learn new skills at the cafe and as a result became more independent. Our volunteers, who selflessly devote their time to improving the lives of the Special Needs Adults, are continuously acknowledged.

We care so much for you, our customers, and every soul who has been a part of this astounding mission. Our excellence is because you make it happen. For all these blessings, we celebrate the Friendship Cafe's milestone with YOU!

The Friendship Cafe's path has not been an easy one. We conceived this community-based idea in late 2019 and opened in January of 2020. Unfortunately, the global pandemic brought us to our knees by March of 2020. Yet, The Friendship Cafe endured. Why?

Because it is simply a beautifully constructed concept, matching private enterprise with non-profit mission. While we remained 6 feet apart, our hearts stayed close and in full view. We conducted Zoom calls to stay in touch with our special friends to ease the burdens of being isolated.

To that end, The Friendship Café was assiduous in cooking up new, exquisite ideas. We served our first responders; the doctors, nurses, EMTs, police, and fire professionals. Because of both ours and your dedication, our community ate the soulful food which we all so needed.

We expanded our catering kitchen with the help of several individuals and generous foundations to feed homeless individuals and families in need.

Now, more than ever, we are back. We truly need your continued loyalty, patronage, and generous support.

We see the light ahead and are looking forward to a year of wonderful programming, yummy food and community service! Come on in to say "Hi" and enjoy!!





# INSIDE LAS OLAS CHABAD:

## ISRAEL HEART2HEART

By Eric Donner

Two years ago, Las Olas Chabad Jewish Center developed a program for soldiers overseas who have been affected by PTSD.

To our beautiful Chabad Community. I would like to share a story of true perseverance.

Rabbi Chaim and I founded Israel Heart2Heart two years ago to help wounded combat soldiers in Israel with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder ("PTSD"). We formed Israel Heart2Heart as an initiative to give back to these special men & women who've been wounded while laying down their lives for our brothers & sisters around the world. We at Las Olas Chabad Jewish Center need to make sure that they are not forgotten! We moved forward with a cool initiative, "The Trip of a Lifetime".

This trip was nothing short of its name! "The Trip of a Lifetime", during its two years in motion, included everything that anyone could ever dream of in a trip--helicopter tours, huge parties and BBQs in the community in the soldiers' honor, day trips on yachts, jet skis and air boats, VIP dinners, therapy, and yoga. Last, and possibly most important, are the lifelong friendships these soldiers made with their Israeli peers and new friends in the USA!

In March 2020, we had nine soldiers' flights booked, their visas granted and their accommodations set to go for "The Trip of a Lifetime"-- little did we know what was in store! Hours, days & months of planning trips, special Mentors in our community for each soldier, exciting events to pay tribute to these wonderful soldiers & more were all thrown to the curb as Covid hit & Fort Lauderdale together with the rest of the world shut down on us. Disappointed was an understatement!



*We at Las Olas Chabad Jewish Center need to make sure that they [our soldiers] are not forgotten, so we planned what we call the "Trip of a Lifetime".*



Without missing a beat, we realized the need to pivot-- & pivot we did! Israel Heart2Heart without ever meeting these young warriors, activated our Israel Heart2Heart Mentor program; the special program we usually instill after each trip, which matches every one of our young warriors with a special community member to be their soundboard, advice panel & friend.

Now, almost a year later we still have never met these young warriors in person who protect the Jewish State, but we have built amazing bonds and relationships. We have gotten to know them intimately, learning about their families, their jobs, their fears and their aspirations. It has been an amazing journey.

Sadly, now they are on their third lock down in Israel & we can feel their pain, many alone, suffering from PTSD. However, their relationships with their Las Olas Chabad friends have truly made the difference in their daily lives. A simple call from us brightens their day to no end. It's amazing to hear. They truly love their American friends of Israel Heart2Heart like brothers and sisters. They are so excited and can't wait to visit. What a build up!

**A simple call from us brightens their day to no end. It's amazing to hear. They truly love their American friends of Israel Heart2Heart like brothers and sisters.**

But we didn't stop there. Israel Heart2Heart attained a qualified yoga instructor in Israel, named Adi, to teach our soldiers yoga & activated one of our US partners, Connected Warriors, to teach Adi trauma-based yoga. Yoga on the beach every year was definitely one of the highlights of the special trip & we wanted to share that serenity & calm with our warriors while stranded at home. Thank G-d, this program is proving to be a success & serves as a great coping mechanism for many of our soldiers. We plan to recruit more yoga instructors in Israel & continue making a difference in the lives of our wounded Israeli warriors.

Working with the Wounded Warriors throughout Covid has proven to be an amazing experience. The moral of this story: when things get tough, we get tougher! With G-d's help, our soldiers will be here soon to meet and celebrate with our entire Las Olas Chabad Community!!



# COVID RELIEF EFFORTS



## We Did Our Best to Make a Difference

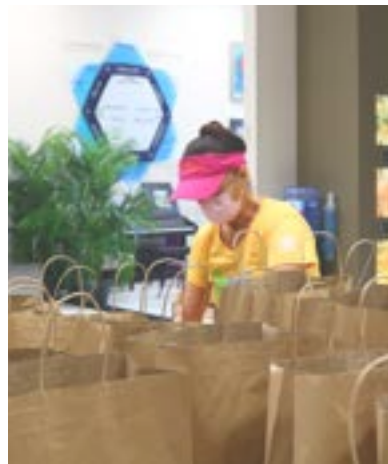
### ► Public Mask Distributions

When the Covid scare first struck the world, the number of masks available versus the amount needed was truly frightening. People were unable to do needed tasks in public due to lack of surgical masks. Las Olas Chabad worked tirelessly in the first days of the virus to secure hundreds of thousands of masks with the help of the Zebersky Family when nearly no one else could and distributed them to the public for their use.



### ► Supplying Meals to Homeless Vets

Summer of 2020 proved to be a difficult one, as the number of homeless people on the streets had significantly increased. In July 2020, Las Olas Chabad partnered with The United Way of Broward County to make six thousand meals for homeless Vets. A newly installed catering kitchen and dozens of charitable volunteers allowed Las Olas Chabad together with The Friendship Cafe to make thousands of meals to help tide them over until they found a better situation.



### ► Mass Food Distributions

Loss of income during COVID-19 left people in need of basic necessities, food being one of them. On Monday, March 30th, 2020, just weeks after people were required to be locked down and many were furloughed, Las Olas Chabad hosted the first covid-related food distribution in East Fort Lauderdale. People from all walks of life came to pick up a box of food to last for a week or more. This was their first of many weekly distribution efforts at the center.



# IT STARTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

## ► Toy / School Supply Giveaway

Despite children being mostly adaptable and resilient in life, covid hit our little ones very hard. They experienced long days of boredom with no real relief, and many parents' were left unemployed, making it harder to provide for their children. Essential items such as food are obviously needed, however adding a little extra sunshine to a child's life is truly priceless. Toy and school supplies provided by Jazwares and The Norman and Bettina Roberts Foundation were given away at Las Olas Chabad. These packages of joy brought thousands of children to pick up their little piece of happiness to help them get through the toughest of times.



## ► Blood Drives

The Covid lockdown caused a great blood shortage across the world. Las Olas Chabad hosted several highly promoted Blood Drives with OneBlood to help remedy the blood shortage across the country. They were very successful in getting donors and thus saving lives in the most fundamental way!



## ► Clothing and Gift Cards for Young Adults with Special Needs

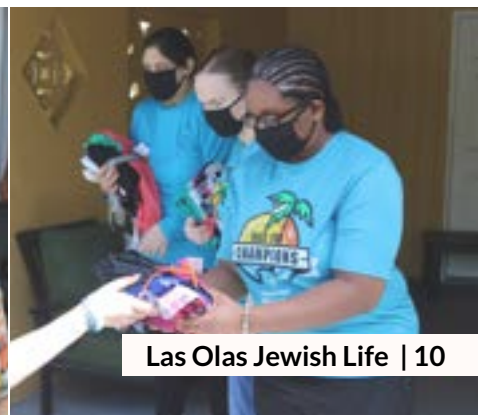
People with special needs greatly rely on routine to normalize their lives, so when Covid hit, children and young adults with special needs needed to eliminate outside activities from their routine. The Friendship Circle of Greater Fort Lauderdale with the help of the Stahl Family and COCO Couture Boutique, donated \$100 Amazon and Visa gift cards and clothing to children and young adults with special needs to help ease the transition of being indoors all day. The amount of joy this brought our friends could easily bring anyone to tears!!

## ► Meals/PPE for Frontline Workers

The word "essential" carried a new meaning in light of the covid crisis. Essential workers, including doctors, EMTs, firefighters and nurses were required to leave their homes daily and often be exposed to the virus before we knew anything about it, except its dangers and risks.

These essential workers exemplified extreme humanitarian qualities and were truly deserving of beautiful treatment by society-- to put it simply-- a pat on the back! To show them that we cared, the community came together to sponsor meals from *The Friendship Cafe* and the cafe staff delivered meals daily to multiple different locations to feed our essential workers. These efforts were organized by Marcie Myerow.

Additionally, Las Olas Chabad was able to provide masks and other PPE to these local workers when these items were running out rapidly for everyone.



# IT STARTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

## ► Holiday Meal Packages

Jewish Holidays are a time for happiness and *simcha* in our lives. With all of the stresses of 2020, sometimes the simple pleasure of preparing a holiday meal or celebrating a Jewish festival rapidly went on the back burner. Las Olas Chabad made it their priority that people continued to celebrate the Jewish holidays and cultures that keep our people alive. Thirty thousand dollars worth of meal packages for Passover and other holidays were distributed amongst our community and many people in need, to fill the hearts of so many Jews with that fuzzy feeling when we engage in our festive traditions!

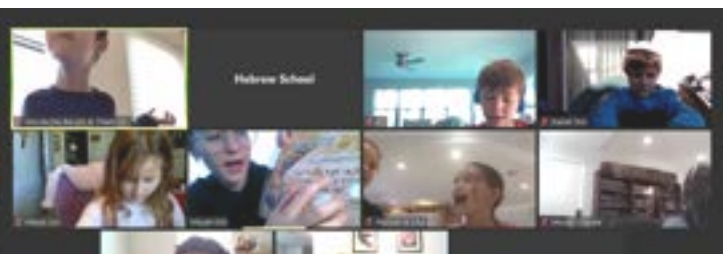


## ► Financial Relief for Families

Job loss resulting in inability to cover expenses brought many families to the doorstep of Las Olas Chabad for financial help a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. With some wonderful help of donors in the community and the Jewish Federation of Broward County, Las Olas Chabad was fortunate to be able to create a Covid Relief Fund to help many families cover basic expenses such as rent and miscellaneous bills to make life functional again.

## ► Virtual Programming

When programming worldwide came to a screeching halt in the face of COVID-19, Las Olas Chabad changed gears to provide virtual programming to keep the community together and instill a feeling of togetherness when it was needed most. Weekly inspirational talks from the Rabbi before Shabbat, Daily services, Rosh Chodesh get togethers full of wonderful messages for the wonderful women in the community, and exciting programs for the children were just some moments that brought joy & hope.



## ► Thanksgiving Meal Distribution

A hearty Thanksgiving Meal -- turkey and vegetables -- was one of the most popular distributions in town during the holiday season. Hundreds of cars waited outside the Las Olas Chabad Jewish Center to receive all of the fixings for their holiday meal. It was truly inspirational to see many people using the supplies to cook not only for themselves, close friends and family, but also for neighbors and distant acquaintances. This effort was kindly sponsored by WeatherTech and the Stahl Family.



## ► iPad Giveaway for Young Adults with Special Needs and the Elderly

Thanks to a generous donation from the Stahl and Zebersky Families, Las Olas Chabad was able to supply over 150 elderly people, the vast majority being holocaust survivors, with iPads during the lockdown to communicate with their loved ones with ease. A portion of the iPads also went to children and young adults with special needs who entered a drawing hosted by The Friendship Circle of Greater Fort Lauderdale. A little secret? Not a single person with special needs was turned away.





# The Gift of Peace



Almost one year ago, The Las Olas Chabad Jewish Center invested in some property. This particular piece of land is not situated on a golf course or on the waterfront, & was not purchased as an investment! It was purchased to bring our community many Spiritual, Emotional and Halachic returns, not to mention a great deal of Peace of Mind! The property consists of burial spaces in the Star of David Cemetery in North Lauderdale, Florida. This special piece of property gives our community a chance to all be together in a place where Jewish guidelines will be adhered to with a funeral home on premises.

Although we are predominately a young congregation, we are committed to being a full service Jewish Community Center! Las Olas Chabad Jewish Center has purchased this parcel of land so that we can oversee ourselves.

From the moment of birth we know there will be a time of death. When that time arrives we want to ensure that everything is done in a traditional way until he or she is laid to rest with the utmost respect, to satisfy Jewish tradition and our families. More so, arranging a burial plot for yourself/loved ones is not only a great gift but actually a blessing for Long-Life!

To make arrangements or for more information, feel free to reach out to the Rabbi  
954-225-4412 or [Rabbi@JewishFl.Org](mailto:Rabbi@JewishFl.Org)

Wishing you blessings for Long Life, Health, Happiness and Prosperity.



# RECIPE FROM THE REBBETZIN

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## *Chayale's Corn Flake Crusted Chicken*



### Ingredients

- 3 sweet potatoes - sliced
- One whole chicken - cut up
- 1 1/2 cup ketchup
- 3/4 cup honey
- 3/4 cup mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 2 cups of crushed corn flakes

### Directions

Place the sliced sweet potatoes onto the bottom of a 9x13 inch pan. Place chicken pieces on top of sweet potatoes. In a separate bowl, mix ketchup, honey, mustard and all spices. Cover all the chicken and potatoes with sauce/spice mixture, then crush the corn flakes and sprinkle them on the top of the chicken. Make sure to cover it well with tin foil and put it in the oven on 350° for two hours. *Voila!* Delicious!

## A WORD FROM THE RABBI

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### *Holding Tight*

*Without Passover, could there be a Jewish people? Could there be any freedom at all in the world? Any hope for a better future?*

*All these things, the story of the Exodus brought into the world. It is this story that inspired liberty and justice throughout the ages, that felled tyrants and lifted the downtrodden to a place of hope. And hope is something we all need right now!*

*When your ship is tossed by raging waves, don't dispose of your anchor. When your backpack is too heavy to bear and a formidable mountain range lies before you, that is not the time to trash your hiking gear. That is the time to put it to good use.*

*When the world is inundated with rushing waters, when a flood swiftly rises above your head, climb aboard the ark your ancestors left you. You will not be alone. All your people will be there with you. As the waters rise, so will you, so will all of us, higher and yet higher.*

*On the night of the very first Passover, in Ancient Egypt, each family was sequestered in its home. No one was permitted to step outside. Outdoors, a plague swept through the land, but in each Jewish home, there was light and hope. The next morning, the Jewish people left for the Promised Land!*

**May we experience the same Miracle, This year in Jerusalem!**



# LAS OLAS JUDAICA

"For All Your Jewish Needs!"



New Arrivals for Passover!

*Have Breakfast With...*



## The Minyanaires

Monday-Friday Services | 7:45 AM  
 Sunday Services | 9 AM

*Morning Minyan, Followed by Breakfast.*