



# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Volume 17 | No. 3

Spring 2015

## 2014-2015 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you for your participation!

From the Welcome Back Reception at The Society of the Four Arts Garden in November through the Annual Meeting in April at the Paramount, the season was full of programs and events designed to foster fellowship and get to know each other better as individuals. Thank you for sharing — and living — our vision of mutual respect and understanding among all cultures and religions.



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Join the Fellowship! Visit [www.palmbeachfellowship.net](http://www.palmbeachfellowship.net) or call 561.833.6150 to sign up!





### OUR MISSION

The Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews is dedicated to promoting fellowship, understanding, and respect among all religions and cultures; bringing the community together through education, dialogue, and interaction; and addressing issues rooted in intolerance, anti-Semitism, and unjust discrimination.

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*Royal Poinciana Chapel*  
Rabbi Michael Resnick  
*Temple Emanu-El of Palm Beach*  
Rabbi Moshe E. Scheiner  
*Palm Beach Orthodox Synagogue*  
Rev. Dwight M. Stevens  
*The Paramount Church*

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sherri Gilbert

## INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP PROMOTES RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING

In today's environment, an environment in which men, women, and children are being threatened and ruthlessly murdered for failing to deny their faith in favor of the faith of others, the Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews is more relevant than it has ever been. Whereas, upon

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

## NOW, MORE THAN EVER



John C. Randolph

"...WE  
MUST  
STAND UP  
FOR EACH  
OTHER."

- JOHN C. RANDOLPH

our inception, we stood for the principle of standing up for others who were being ostracized by society and discriminated against for having a belief different than

our own, today our role has become more important. It may not be an exaggeration to proclaim that in today's environment we face issues involving life and death. Now, more than ever, therefore, we must stand up for each other.

Although some claim to know exactly how to mount the challenge against the terrorist tactics of those who would ask us to denounce our faith, none of us truly have the answer. And, I don't claim to have the answer, but I propose three steps important in mounting the challenges we face today.

First, *now more than ever*, it is important that we stand up for our own beliefs and for our own faith, lest we fall into the pattern of secularism which is running rampant over society today, particularly in western Europe and even, albeit to a lesser extent, in the United States. To give up on our own faith, is giving up on faith entirely and it is fair to ask the question, where would we be, where would our world be, without faith.

Second, *now more than ever*, it is important that we stand up for others who have a faith and a belief different from our own. It is vitally important, in a diverse society, that we remain committed to our friends and that we do not stand idly by and allow them to be attacked and maligned by others. It is important that we not remain silent, but that we vocally support our friends and neighbors and stand by them in times of peril.

Third, and finally, *now more than ever*, it is important that we engage in dialogue; that we come together with open minds; that we discuss issues which confront us and that we not be afraid to address those issues. It is equally important that we educate ourselves and each other; that we assemble together in Fellowship; that we reach out to others and welcome to our fold others with beliefs different from our own. It is my belief that when we do these things we will learn that we are more alike than we are different and that we will gain a new found understanding and respect for each other and for our fellow humankind.

Perhaps in this complex world my suggestions are over simplified, but I truly believe that if all of us would engage in these three practices, the world would be a better place in which to live.

## COMMUNITY LEADERS JOIN THE FELLOWSHIP BOARD

The Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews welcomes three new members to its Board of Directors, elected at the annual meeting on April 13, 2015. They are:



Originally from Charleston, **Harris Fried** has considered Palm Beach "home" since his parents moved there in 1980. Chairman of the Code Enforcement Board for the Town of Palm Beach, Harris is a lawyer and financial advisor, and is the CEO of the Fried Family Office, LLC. He attended the University of Florida, the Law School at Emory University, and the School of International Affairs at Columbia University and Harvard. Harris also serves on the board of Palm Beach Synagogue.



A graduate of Duke University, **Danielle Hickox Moore** is a director of the Fortin Foundation of Florida and the Barker Welfare Foundation. Recently elected to the Town Council, Dani has served the Town of Palm Beach in several capacities through the years and is active in many charitable organizations. A recipient of several prestigious awards for her efforts, she is also a licensed Realtor Associate with Brown Harris Stevens and has two daughters, Lesly and Alexandra.



**Enid Pollak** moved to Florida from Chicago in 2000 following a long marketing career at Sears and then at a wholesale lighting company, where she served as Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Among her activities, she has been involved with the national World Affairs Council for many years. Enid has two sons, Mitchell, an orthopedic surgeon in Coral Springs, and Michael, who lives in Denver and owns the Rolex store in Las Vegas and a chain of jewelry stores in the West.

## FELLOWSHIP INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO INSPIRE AND ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE

## ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS HONORED

Essay Contest chair Rosalie Franks and her committee reviewed more than 600 essays submitted on the topic, "What does it mean to be a moral person?" for the 2015 competition. The annual contest is open to all middle and high school students in public and private schools in Palm Beach County.

In addition to cash prizes, the top three students in each division received Tourneau watches, and their teachers received gift cards from Staples. All the students received framed certificates, and Honorable Mention recipients also received journals.



Zoe Krishtul



Emma Lange

### FIRST PLACE ESSAY (Middle School) by Zoe Krishtul, The Weiss School

Morality is the sense of knowing what is right and what is wrong. It is influenced by one's culture, religious beliefs, and historical time period. Certain behavior that would have been considered immoral a hundred years ago can be totally acceptable in today's society. I came across this quote by Augustine of Hippo that really helped me to understand the meaning of morality: "Right is right even if no one is doing it; wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it." Some traits that a moral person must possess are integrity, compassion, and loyalty.

Integrity is the quality of being honest and honorable. An example of integrity would be finding a copy of answers to a test that you have to take, but choosing to study on your own instead. Earning a good grade with your own work would be the honorable act. Using someone else's answers would be equivalent to cheating. Even if nobody knew about this, you would still be dishonest.

Compassion is the concern for the suffering or misfortunes of others and willing to help. An act of compassion would be offering shelter to your next door neighbor whose house burned down, even if it would inconvenience you. Compassion requires a certain degree of selflessness. If you did not care about what happened to your neighbor and told them to get out of your house that would be immoral.

Loyalty is a strong feeling of support or allegiance. An example of loyalty would be remaining friends with a person unpopular at school. Public opinion changes often, especially in a place like middle and high school. Sticking by an old friend who has not done anything to forfeit your friendship is an act of loyalty. However, breaking off the friendship because other kids are making fun of you for being his/her friend would be immoral.

Individual's concept of what constitutes a moral behavior may differ significantly from someone else's based on their cultural and religious upbringing. However, such basic qualities as integrity, compassion and loyalty are the core of morality regardless of our backgrounds.

### FIRST PLACE ESSAY (High School) by Emma Lange, The Benjamin School

Late in the afternoon on Thanksgiving Day, I sat down to a feast with members from three generations of my family. I posed the question: What does it mean to be a moral person? My family seemed to agree that morality means a code of conduct for good behavior. Their definitions support the Oxford Dictionary's definition of morality: *Principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behavior.*

- 1.1 A particular system of values and principles of conduct
- 1.2 The extent to which an action is right or wrong

The generations did differ greatly on what they thought was right or wrong. My grandfather strongly holds that morality mostly relates to sexual conduct. My parents believe to be moral is to do no harm. My twelve-year-old sister feels that to be moral is to follow the rules. All of their definitions only work occasionally and lead to more questions. How important is sex? What does no harm mean? Whose rules? Even generations within the same family have difficulty defining what is good. To be defined as a moral person, surely one has to be intrinsically good. They must act on and promote goodness.

One cannot simply follow one group's values to be considered moral because that one group may be preaching hate or harming another group. Take Malala Yousafzai, the teenager who was shot by the Taliban for promoting education for girls in Pakistan. She was not following the code of conduct or values set by the single group called the Taliban. She was following a principle that seems good in itself, fairness with no regard to gender. We can also take a look at her friends, Kainat Riaz and Shazia Ramzan, who actively supported her, were also shot and quietly pursue dreams to help other Pakistani women. To me, being a moral person, is being good regardless of the pressures or circumstances and improving the world by promoting goodness.

The Taliban actively promote their code of conduct and use atrocities to defend it. Members who shoot teenage girls for pursuing education cannot be considered moral even if they are abiding to their group's code of conduct. Malala, Kainat, and Shazia, acted the Taliban's system of values but acted in a way that is in itself good. Even after they were attacked, all three girls continue to fight for education and betterment of women in Pakistan.

"Kainat dreams of becoming a gynecologist so she can help women in Pakistan who can't go to a male doctor, they can't show their bodies," said BBC News. "The girls have high hopes -- both want to become doctors and fight for women's rights to education with Malala as their inspiration."

The fight for women in Pakistan is just one fight that courageous individuals are taking on in our world today. It is these individuals who fight for what is right, regardless of the danger they face as a result, who will make a difference for good in our world. Those who promote a universal morality are our true heroes. They are moral beings.

## ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

### HIGH SCHOOL

**First Place**  
**Emma Lange**  
Grade 9  
The Benjamin School  
Teacher: John Peruggia

**Second Place**  
**Ashley Sniffen**  
Grade 9  
The Benjamin School  
Teacher: John Peruggia

**Third Place**  
**Kayleigh Rubin**  
Grade 12  
Dreyfoos School of the Arts  
Teacher: Theresa Bermann

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

**First Place**  
**Zoe Krishtul**  
Grade 6  
The Weiss School  
Teacher: Shawna Dooner

**Second Place**  
**William Habegger**  
Grade 8  
Western Pines Middle School  
Teacher: Steve Gordon

**Third Place**  
**Michael Agrama**  
Grade 8  
St. Mark's Episcopal School  
Teacher: Nicole Robison

### HONORABLE MENTION

**Liza Goldstone**  
Grade 7  
Pine Crest School  
Teacher: Leah White

**Lauren Lange**  
Grade 7  
St. Mark's Episcopal School  
Teacher: Alana Cornell

**Marc Lazarus**  
Grade 6  
Pine Crest School  
Teacher: Joy Imperato

**Jamie Lenehan**  
Grade 8  
St. Mark's Episcopal School  
Teacher: Nicole Robison

**Cameron Pirozzi**  
Grade 8  
St. Mark's Episcopal School  
Teacher: Kate Mahoney

**Abigail Wandoff**  
Grade 8  
Palm Beach Day Academy  
Teacher: Ralph Greco



## 2015 JOHN C. RANDOLPH AWARD RECIPIENTS

### ROSALIE FRANKS, ED.D.



A Professor at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island, she designs her courses around issues involving human rights and social justice. Dr. Franks has served on the Board of the Fellowship for 17 years and was Vice Chair for three. She is the liaison

between the Fellowship, Boston-based Facing History and Ourselves, and the Palm Beach County School District's Holocaust Studies Program. Believing it is essential for young people to learn about the dangers of indifference and the need to respect diversity, she also chairs the Fellowship's Annual Essay Contest, developed to inspire students to examine what it means to be guided by a sense of values.

Dr. Franks interviewed 92 Holocaust survivors and witnesses in the United States and Scotland for Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation.

A Fellow of Northwestern University's Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization, she earned a B.A. from Smith College, an M.A. from Columbia University, an Ed.D. from Boston University, and did post-doctoral work at Harvard and Oxford.

### MARY HULITAR



Mary Gerstenberg Hulitar was born in New York City, and graduated from The Madeira School in Virginia and Sarah Lawrence College.

She married Philip Hulitar in 1951. In the late 1950's, they moved to Palm Beach, and she became involved in many charitable organizations.

She is well-known as a Trustee of the Society of the Four Arts having served on their Board for 49 years. The Philip Hulitar Sculpture Garden there is named for her late husband.

Mrs. Hulitar has been a loyal contributor to the Town of Palm Beach United Way for more than 26 years, and she is also a generous supporter of the *Palm Beach Daily News* Annual Toy Drive. She has served on the Board of the Preservation Foundation, was a Centennial Ambassador for the Town of Palm Beach, and was honored at the first Historical Society Archival Evening.

In 1981 when Hospice of Palm Beach was in its infancy, Mrs. Hulitar became involved and is a loyal Board Member to this day. The Gerstenberg Hospice Center in West Palm Beach was named for her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Charles William Gerstenberg.

## ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP DINNER FOCUS ON "RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN A PERILOUS WORLD"



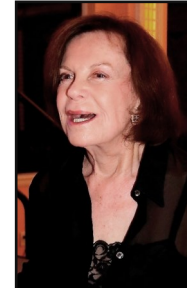
Baylie and Marvin Rosenberg



Alan and Elizabeth Shulman, Milton and Sheila Fine



Chrissie Ferguson, John and Leslie Randolph



Elinor Belfer



Dr. Robert Norris



Maggie and Mark Zeidman



Marion and Charles Jacobson



Mayor Gail Coniglio, David Thomas



Elizabeth and The Rev. James Harlan, Rabbi Michael Resnick



Leslie and Ron Schram, Vivienne Ivry



Roberta Rosenthal, Norma Saunders, Sydney Rosenthal, Roger Saunders



Mary Lou Wagner, Carol Sandberg, Libby Taplin



Msgr. Thomas Klinzing

Almost 200 people gathered for the Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews Annual Dinner at The Beach Club on February 24. Elinor Belfer and Maggie Zeidman served as co-chairs of the event.

The keynote speaker was Katrina Lantos Swett, Ph.D., Chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and President/CEO of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice. Dr. Swett, who also teaches human rights and American foreign policy at Tufts University, spoke on the timely topic "Religious Freedom in a Perilous World." Her husband, Richard Swett, is a former United States Ambassador to Denmark and is currently working on humanitarian projects.

The annual John C. Randolph Award was presented to Rosalie Franks, Ed.D. and Mary Gerstenberg Hulitar for their contributions and leadership in the community, and their support of the principles of the Fellowship. In her acceptance speech, Dr. Franks emphasized that there is still work to be done and thanked the audience for their efforts.

In his remarks, Fellowship chair John C. Randolph presented the three steps he felt needed to be taken to mount the challenges we face today: to stand up for our own beliefs and faiths, to stand up for others, and to engage in open dialogue. He said educating ourselves and each other is the key to fostering understanding and mutual respect among all cultures and religions.

Among those in attendance were several high school teachers who have received full scholarships from the Fellowship to participate in the Boston-based "Facing History and Ourselves" program in recent years, as well as Gustav Krarup of Tourneau, which provides prizes for the annual Fellowship Essay Contest for middle and high school students.

Dr. Robert Norris, pastor of the Royal Poinciana Chapel, delivered the invocation and benediction.



Dr. Katrina and Ambassador Richard Swett

Special thanks to Sam and Anita Michaels for providing the beautiful floral arrangements.



Kathleen and Lew Crampton



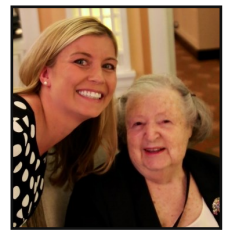
Irwin and Ellen Levy



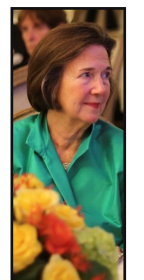
Joseph Ierardi, Joyce McLendon, Mary Ierardi



Jack McDonald, Maria Guadez



Amy Dittami, Shirley Slater



Mary Gushee



## RABBI MARC GELLMAN INSPIRES AT ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



Andrew Huber



Roni Lawn, Bill Diamond, Louise Lord



Phil Whitacre



Shirley Weitz, Mimi Flamm



Laurel Baker, Bill Meyer



Linda Wartow, Phyllis Verducci



Claire Levine, Gladys Jacobson



Karen Amstein, Barbara Kruse, Karen Cochran

Syndicated "God Squad" columnist, Rabbi Marc Gellman, returned to Palm Beach to address Fellowship members and friends at the Annual Luncheon on January 28 at the Cohen Pavilion at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts.

During his speech, Gellman urged the audience to reach out to others different from themselves. He said the key to respect and understanding among all religions and cultures was developing one-on-one relationships.

Vivienne Ivry chaired the event, which drew 200 Gellman fans of all faiths. The Rev. James Harlan of the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea delivered the invocation, with Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein of Temple Israel doing the benediction. Guests were greeted by an ensemble from the Palm Beach Public Strings Orchestra, under the direction of Andy Matzgow.



Henry and Marion Gorelick



Ken Slater, Yves deMontigny



### IN MEMORIAM: NORMAN B. LEVENTHAL

Longtime Fellowship Board member and supporter, Norman B. Leventhal, passed away at the age of 97 on April 5, 2015. Leventhal grew up in Boston, where in 1946 he co-founded with his brother, Robert, what became the Beacon Companies. Through the years, the company was responsible for building and renovating many of Boston's well-known landmarks. Norman Leventhal's philanthropic work touched many lives in both Boston and Palm Beach.

Fellowship chairman, Skip Randolph, stated, "Norman was a great friend to the Fellowship, and to so many of us who admired him for his kind and gentle manner. He will be greatly missed."

Our condolences to Norman's family, including wife Muriel, daughter Paula Sidman, sons Alan and Mark Leventhal, 11 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.



Ali Nicklaus, Nancy Arnold, Barbara Nicklaus, Rabbi Marc Gellman, Nan O'Leary



Gloria Alpert



Paula Harris



Jeremy Johnson, president of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, presents a photo of Temple Beth Israel, the first area synagogue, to Luncheon speaker Rabbi Marc Gellman.



Burt Persky, Doris Gilman, Roberta and Bob Radkay

## ANNUAL MEETING RECAPS THE SEASON

The Paramount Church hosted the Fellowship's Annual Meeting on April 13, 2015, ending the season on a high note with a review of programs and events, followed by a bit of business and the highlight of the evening, presentation of the Essay Contest awards. Attendees enjoyed a reception in the historic Paramount building lobby area afterwards. Special thanks to Rev. Dwight Stevens for use of the church for the meeting.



Second Place winners, Ashley Sniffen (high school), and her parents, Mark and Suzanne, and William Habegger (middle school).



Gustav Krarup of Tourneau and Essay Contest Chair Rosalie Franks, Michael Agrama, Third Place (middle school)

Cameron Pirozzi and Jamie Lenehan (right) of St. Mark's Episcopal School, and Liza Goldstone (far right) of Pine Crest School were among the six Honorable Mention award winners.

See page 2 for the two First Place essays and the complete list of winners.



## INTERFAITH DIALOGUES



Led by Tom O'Brien and Rabbi Howard Shapiro, our popular interactive series explores and examines key issues, beliefs, rituals, and practices in Judaism and Christianity to foster mutual respect, understanding, and fellowship. Each session opens with a short video that forms a basis for the conversations among the participants.

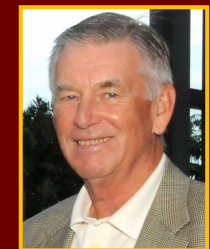
Topics covered in the three sessions in 2015 included:

Scriptures - "Old" Isn't Old and "New" Isn't New

Christians and Jews: The Names We Call Each Other

A New Vision for a Shared Future

Thank you to Rabbi Michael Resnick, David Scheier, and the staff of Temple Emanu-El of Palm Beach for hosting the 2015 series of Interfaith Dialogues, and to all the enthusiastic participants.



O'Brien



Shapiro

Join us next winter for another enlightening season of Interfaith Dialogues!







## PALM BEACH FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIANS & JEWS

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*Special Thanks...* to Gustav Krarup and Tourneau for their longtime, generous support providing prizes for our annual Essay Contest!



## THANK YOU

The success of the Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews is due to the efforts of our hard-working Officers, Board of Directors, Members, and Volunteers. Your participation and membership donations help us to provide meaningful programs to inspire, educate, and bring together people of all faiths and cultures, as we strive for cooperation, respect, and understanding throughout the community. Your support makes it possible for us to offer opportunities such as the Interfaith Dialogues, Fellowship Friday, scholarships for local teachers to attend the Facing History and Ourselves Institute to bring back those vital lessons to their classrooms, partnerships with local like-minded organizations, and programs for young people such as the annual Essay Contest which encourages students to explore topics involving human rights, community, and values.

With your ongoing support, we look forward to another strong season of Fellowship activities, events, and outreach to strengthen our ties to one another and improve our community.

For membership information or to make a donation, contact the Fellowship office at (561) 833-6150 or visit the web site at [www.palmbeachfellowship.net](http://www.palmbeachfellowship.net).

## STAY CONNECTED!

Contact us for more information about our events and programs.

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