

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Spring 2016

2015-2016 SEASON BRINGS OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

ANNUAL DINNER



The highlight of the Fellowship season, the Annual Dinner featured keynote speaker (*left*) Jeffrey Goldberg of *The Atlantic* magazine. Held at The Breakers, more than 200 guests attended. *Below*, Maggie Zeidman presents the 2016 John C. Randolph Award to Ellen Levy who accepted on behalf of her husband, longtime community leader H. Irwin Levy (*inset*).



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NEWS ARTICLES, AND PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE SEASON.





Join the Fellowship! Visit www.palmbeachfellowship.net or call 561.833.6150 to sign up!







FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY
WELCOME BACK RECEPTION
SUNDAY SERIES
INTERFAITH DIALOGUES
ESSAY CONTEST
"CHASING DREAMS" EXHIBIT





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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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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

John C. Randolph

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews. I extend a hearty thanks to you for your interest in our organization.

To our members, thank you for joining the Fellowship. It is you who make the continued work of the Fellowship possible. Because of you, whether you are a longtime member or a relatively new member, the Fellowship is healthier than it has ever been in its nearly quarter century of existence. You have acknowledged the importance of the work of the Fellowship by way of your associating with us in our mission and your generous financial contributions.

If you are not yet a member, or perhaps got busy and let your membership lapse this past season, we encourage you to become more involved in our work and in our mission. There are many reasons for you to become involved in the Fellowship, not the least of which is to afford yourself the opportunity to get to know your neighbors of different faiths and beliefs. What better way to do that than to engage in dialogue, to discuss our differences and our similarities, to study and learn together, to socialize together, all with the goal of learning to respect one another.

"...I believe we have come a long way... I believe we have made a difference."

- John C. Randolph

This world has become a frightening place in which to live. It is a world filled with fear, incivility, intolerance, misunderstanding. greed, and hate. Unfortunately the world will not change until we learn how to confront these issues. And, confront them we must.

Twenty-three years ago the Fellowship was founded by a handful of concerned citizens in the Town of Palm Beach to do just that, to confront issues rooted in bigotry, intolerance and anti-Semitism by getting people of different faiths, cultures and beliefs to work together to form a better understanding of one another with the goal of learning to respect one another regardless of our differences. The goal was to tear down walls

which divide us and build bridges which would allow us to connect. Frankly, although there is still work to be done, I believe we have come a long way. I believe walls have come down and bridges have been built. I believe we have made a difference.

If you have not yet joined us, if you believe in our cause, I urge you to get on board so you can help make a difference. Please contact us with any suggestions you may have for how we may better serve the community and fulfill our mission in the coming year. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you next season!

NEW DIRECTORS, SECRETARY ELECTED FOR 2016-2017















Ainslie

Burns

Keenan

Five new Board Members were elected at the Annual Meeting on April 11, joining the others re-elected to another one-year term, including Michael Ainslie, who was elected mid-season to fill a vacancy. The new members include businessman/attorney/philanthropist Brian Burns; new Palm Beach Day Academy head Edwin P. Gordon; the Palm Beach Civic Association's Vice President of Marketing, Susan Keenan; educator Donna Plasket; and attorney Michael Small. Vivienne Ivry was elected Secretary to replace Rev. Dwight Stevens, who will remain an ex-officio clergy member. The other three officers were re-elected.

TEACHERS SELECTED TO ATTEND FACING HISTORY

Every summer, the Fellowship awards scholarships to local educators to attend a weeklong workshop offered by Facing History and Ourselves, a Boston-based organization whose mission is to engage students in an examination of racism, prejudice, and anti-Semitism, to promote a more humane and informed citizenry. The following teachers have been chosen to participate in July: Laura Jane Linck, Rosarian Academy; Sarah Mathews, Seminole Ridge High; Carolina Simon, Loggers' Run Middle; and Bryan Sandala, curriculum specialist.

WINNING ESSAYS READ AT ANNUAL MEETING







▲ (L-R) Julien Verret, second place (Western Pines Middle School, grade 8); Shane Lunsford, third place (St. Mark's Episcopal School, grade 8); Skylar Hines, honorable mention (St. Mark's Episcopal School, grade 8).

The 2016 Essay Contest topic "Liberty" drew more than 400 entries from Palm Beach County middle and high school students. Cash prizes and Tourneau watches were awarded to the top four essay writers at the Fellowship Annual Meeting on April 11. The supervising teachers of winning students received office supply store gift cards.

The text of Bella McNamara's first place essay is at the right. Visit www.palmbeachfellowship.net for all the winning essays.

NEW SUNDAY SERIES HAS GREAT FIRST SEASON

With something for everyone in our new Sunday Series, close to 200 people came together to share common interests. The first of the four programs was held on January 24, a Chamber Music Ensemble Concert conducted by Joseph A. Ierardi, featuring artists from I Musici of the Palm Beaches and The Lubben Quartet.



Other programs in the series included a Valentine's Day Wine Tasting in the lovely Paramount Building Courtyard on February 14, hosted by Maurice Amiel, The French Wine Merchant; a presentation on March 6 by historian Harvey Oyer III, On Common Ground in the Early Days of Palm Beach County; and the final program, Discrimination in the Movies, presented by Caroline Breder-Watts, host

of WLRN's Sunday Breakfast with the Arts.

on March 30 featuring film clips and commentary by a panel including Leslie Gray Streeter of The Palm Beach Post, Rabbi Michael Resnick of Temple Emanu-El, and Fellowship member Dr. Ira Rubenstein.

INTERFAITH DIALOGUES PROMOTE RESPECT









Our annual series of Interfaith Dialogues provides a wonderful opportunity for people of all backgrounds to learn from one another and converse respectfully in an open, interactive setting on topics of mutual interest. This season, in addition to our popular facilitators, Tom O'Brien and Rabbi Howard Shapiro, tackling the topics of intermarriage and anti-Semitism in the first two sessions, special quests Rabbi Donniel Hartman (Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem) and Bishop Peter Eaton (Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida) led the discussion at the February 24 session to explore the question of whether religion was the problem or solution.

All three sessions were held at The Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach. If you have ideas for topics for 2016-2017, call the Fellowship office at (561) 833-6150 or write info@palmbeachfellowship.net.

January 13, 2016 What's wrong with intermarriage?

February 3, 2016 Will there always be anti-Semitism? Is religion the problem or solution?

February 24, 2016

PARTNERSHIPS STRENGTHEN PROGRAMS

Following a successful partnership with the Historical Society of Palm Beach County last season, the Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews again supported another special exhibit at the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum, Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American. Exploring how organized baseball played a significant role in the lives of immigrant and minority communities - Jews, Italians, Asians, Latinos, African Americans, and others - the free exhibit ran from December through March at the museum in West Palm Beach.

2016 Essay Contest

Bella McNamara — First Place The Benjamin School, Grade 7

The word "liberty"

means the state of being

free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views. Liberty will give people the freedom to live in a free country. Freedom from any restrictions or restraints. Freedom to also think, act or speak about anything we want. We are so lucky to live in America where we have this kind of freedom. We should be so grateful to our past leaders for fighting the British for our independence, writing the Constitution to protect our rights and for leaving us with liberty and justice for all.

I am especially grateful to be living in America. I was born in China, a communist country. The people of China do not have the liberty or freedom to make personal choices for themselves. They are controlled by the government. If I grew up in China, I would not have the freedom I now have. I would not have a choice of where I would live, attend school, what college I would want to go to, or what kind of job I would want after I graduate. As John Adams said, "I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy." If I lived in China, my life would be decided for me. I am so thankful my Mom adopted me and brought me to America.

As Americans, we have a responsibility to protect our country's freedom and liberty We have the liberty to vote for our president and choose a leader that will keep our country safe. We also need to honor those that go to war to serve and protect our country. They risk their lives so that all Americans can have freedom. Also, when we pray to keep those in the armed forces safe and keep our country safe, we have the freedom and Liberty to worship God and follow the religion of our choice. God gave us all free will and it is our right to hold on to this free will for our entire life. We need to make good choices, protect our environment, strive to make a positive difference in our lives and cherish our rights of liberty. Future Americans can also live happy lives with freedom to make choices for themselves and keep passing on "liberty and justice for all."



PALM BEACH FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIANS & JEWS

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