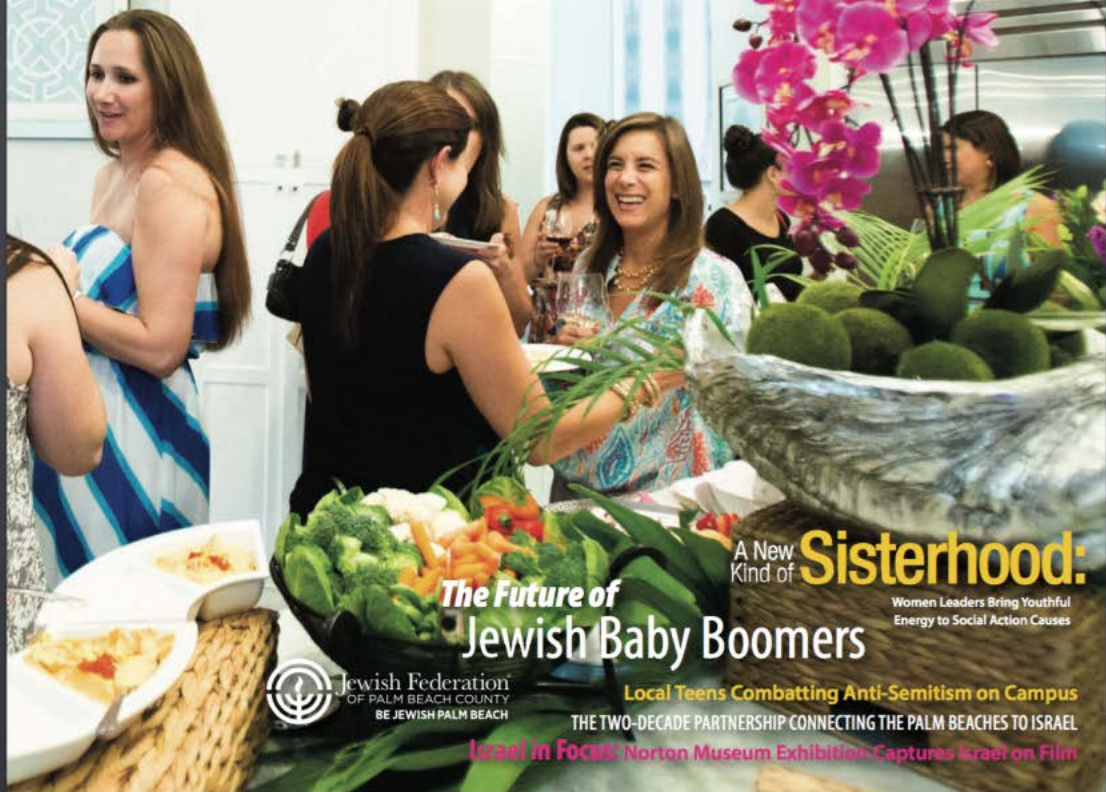


belong

Fall 2015 | Palm Beach



The Future of **Jewish Baby Boomers**

A New Kind of **Sisterhood:**

Women Leaders Bring Youthful Energy to Social Action Causes



Jewish Federation
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
BE JEWISH PALM BEACH

Local Teens Combatting Anti-Semitism on Campus

THE TWO-DECADE PARTNERSHIP CONNECTING THE PALM BEACHES TO ISRAEL

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In
Praise
of **JEWISH**

SISTERHOOD

Whether gathering for a Shabbat dinner or working on a local philanthropic cause, the energetic, youthful leaders of Kol Isha are lending their unique voices to our community.

By Robin Bradley Hansel, Photos by Jacek Gancarz



When it comes to bringing a large group of over-scheduled young women together for an evening of spiritual fellowship, timing is everything, as Beth Wayne and her co-chairs, Sara Balas Densen and Elana Kanel Rickel, will attest. The three friends lead a group called Kol Isha, Hebrew for “a woman’s voice.”

Kol Isha seeks to encourage active involvement of Jewish women as part of The Collaborative <45, an association of Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County’s groups that engage young adults and professionals in Jewish life. Other groups that make up The Collaborative <45 include NextGen, the Emerging Leadership Program (ELP), and Jewish Professionals Network (JPN).

Since spring 2014, nearly 100 Kol Isha members have attended Federation activities, such as delivering holiday meals to homebound seniors and fundraising initiatives to combat hunger in our local community.

On an early summer evening, a spirit of service was evident as nearly 30 women brought excited voices and laughter to a relaxing Shabbat dinner at Wayne’s home. The gathering was the first time the group had come together in a social way, though every event includes a connection to local philanthropy and volunteerism.

“The Shabbat dinner was a great way to feel a part of the wonderful and welcoming Jewish community we have locally,” said Kol Isha participant Lauren Stuhmer. “Beth Wayne was so kind to open her home for such a beautiful yet casual evening, where we could unwind from the week and enjoy seeing old friends and meeting new ones.”

Join dynamic young women for Kol Isha’s programs focused on education, social action, and leadership.

December 1: Campaign Opening Event

February 2016: Ladies and Lattes

April 2016: Feeling Good Inside and Out: Yoga and Social Action

May 13, 2016: Shabbat dinner at a private home in Palm Beach Gardens

Kol Isha is a program of The Collaborative <45, Federation’s association of young adults and professionals groups. For more information about the above events, email kolisha@jewishpalmbeach.org



In the group’s spirit of social action, attendees — who ranged in age from 25 to 45 — were encouraged to bring nonperishable items to be donated to the Kasher Food Pantry of Alpert Jewish Family and Children’s Service (AJFCS), a partner agency of Jewish Federation. The atmosphere was casual — Sabbath prayers, a delicious dinner, fun, and camaraderie were the only agenda items.

“We wanted to create a nice night out for women as we started the Sabbath together. Nothing was being asked of them. Instead, everyone was simply invited to share in sisterhood,” explained Wayne, a full-time mother of two.

Densen, a real estate professional with two young children, added, “It was such a lovely evening as women ate and connected with each other.” Like Wayne, she felt everyone enjoyed talking, sharing, and just being together.

Amy Jonas, a member of Federation’s Board of Directors, serves as Kol Isha’s mentor and lends supportive advice to the group’s participants. A past president and campaign chair for Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy, Jonas said she enjoys watching like-minded Jewish women embark on educational and spiritual journeys filled with social action and leadership opportunities.

“Kol Isha is a wonderful vehicle for young, committed, and passionate Jewish women,” added Jonas. “They work together to build a stronger Jewish community for themselves and their families.”