

In Brief

Website ranks Scheck Hillel as top Jewish day school in Florida

Scheck Hillel Community School in North Miami Beach was recently recognized as the number one Jewish day school in Florida in the 2020 Best Schools rankings by Niche.com, a website with information on schools.

Scheck Hillel, which educates students from 18 months old to 12th grade, earned this ranking by scoring highly on a variety of factors including SAT/ACT scores, student-teacher ratio, the quality of colleges that students consider attending and reviews from students and parents. The statistical data used in this ranking was obtained from the U.S. Department of Education and then analyzed by Niche's team of data scientists to create the 2020 rankings.

Visit [niche.com/k12/rankings/](https://www.niche.com/k12/rankings/) for the full list of 2020 rankings, methodologies and data sources. Contact Scheck Hillel's admissions office at 305-931-2831 ext.173 or write to admissions@eHillel.org for more information on the school or to arrange a visit there.

Palm Beach County Jewish service agencies name new CEO

Marc D. Hopin was recently named chief executive officer of Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Service of Palm Beach County and its sister agency, Melvin J & Claire Levine Jewish Residential and Family Service of Palm Beach County.

Hopin has worked at Alpert Jewish Family Service for more than six years where he most recently as interim CEO. He previously served for five years as the organization's chief administrative officer and chief financial officer. Hopin has more than 35 years of experience managing accounting operations, financial reporting, human resource management and information technology management.

Visit www.alpertjfs.org/ for more information on the agencies Hopin is leading.

Boca temple plans Blue Jeans Shabbat, barbecue

Temple Beth El of Boca Raton will host a Blue Jeans Shabbat service at 6 p.m. followed by a barbecue dinner on Sept. 6 at its Schaefer Family Campus, 333 SW 4th Ave. in Boca Raton.

The purpose of this upcoming Shabbat is to offer everyone the chance to attend a casual end-of-summer Shabbat service and come see friends and family they haven't see all summer. Blue Jeans attire is welcome but not required. There is also a Shabbat Club for children ages 2-10 with light snacks and activities starting at 5:45 p.m. that evening so parents can enjoy the services in the sanctuary. The Shabbat Club is free but registration is required.

The barbecue dinner following services is sponsored by the synagogue's Brotherhood and Sisterhood, and catered by Artisan Foods. Prices for dinner are \$20 for adults and \$12 for children ages 4-12 through Aug. 28, and \$24 for adults and \$16 for children ages 4-12 after that date. Visit tbecora.org/special-events to RSVP or for more information on dinner and Shabbat Club, or call 561-391-8900.

— Sergio Carmona

Area college, high school students train to advocate for Israel

By Sergio Carmona
Florida Jewish Journal

In early August, the Israel education organization StandWithUs hosted trainings in Los Angeles for selected North American college and high school students to prepare them to be pro-Israel advocates on their campuses for this 2019-20 school year.

Among the high school and college students who attended the trainings included several from Florida, including Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade county schools.

One of the programs the students trained for is the year-long SWU Emerson Fellowship, which trains and educates pro-Israel college student leaders on college campuses.

Valentina Ramirez, a sophomore at Florida International University and Hispanic Emerson Fellow who is also a Christian, said that at this training conference, she was able to educate herself on a deeper level about Israel from a point of view that wasn't strictly Christian.

"I learned new skills on how to be a better leader for my community and bring awareness of the struggles of the Jewish community with anti-Zionism. I learned about the Jewish perspective and because of it, I plan to collaborate with Jewish clubs such as Hillel at FIU for the purpose of bringing intersectionality between cultures."

Kathryn Helms-Morreale, a senior at Florida Atlantic University, said that as an Emerson Fellow, she hopes "to work with all the communities on campus to spread a love for Israel and stop the lies that cause anti-Zionism."



STANDWITHUS/COURTESY

StandWithUs' 2019-20 Emerson Fellows include college students from South Florida.

Ariana Ponte, a senior at the University of South Florida, said at the conference, she learned how to answer the difficult questions about Israel but most importantly, she also learned to be more confident in herself and her ability to express her opinions.

Lital Hartzy, a senior at the University of Florida, said, "I was able to listen to other people's experiences and learn more facts about Israel."

Sara Gold Rafel, StandWithUs/Southeast's executive director, said, "We are so excited to be working with our students and to seeing all they accomplish." "They have so many more challenges this year in combating the rise of anti-Semitism at their schools and providing balanced information to their peers about Israel."

High school students trained for the year-long SWU High School Internship program that prepares students for the challenges they may face in college and the community regarding Israel. The students receive guidance and funding to run programming in their high schools and youth groups.

Danielle Pinto of Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School in Miami, said, "At the conference, I learned so much about Israel's history and its relations

with different countries all across the globe."

Leeat Goldstein of Coral Springs Charter School said, "This conference taught me various ways of combating anti-Semitism, including the different action steps to take if I encounter a situation that symbolizes hate."

Noa Miller of Oxbridge Academy in West Palm Beach feels the multiple perspectives that people have on Israel that she learned about at this conference will help her create programs which can apply to everyone, regardless of their beliefs.

Rachel Eskandry of David Posnack Jewish Day School in Davie, said regarding her plans as an intern, "I hope to get my fellow peers at school and members of my community more involved and active with pro-Israel and other events."

"This year, my goal is to plan different programs in which we stand together in support of the Jewish homeland Israel, and to educate my community on the importance of being a Zionist."

Yael Bister of Hebrew Academy (RASG) in Miami Beach said, "I hope to back up my community's love for Israel with facts and knowledge so they can be better equipped for what the real world has in store."

Leonardo Bentata of

Scheck Hillel Community School in North Miami Beach, said, "Looking at my community's needs, there are a few specific goals I hope to accomplish."

"These include educating my community about the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict using objective facts, teaching how to recognize legitimate criticism of Israel and when it crosses the line into anti-Semitism and strengthening people's connections to Israel."

Leah Bard of Donna Klein Jewish Academy in Boca Raton said, "Throughout this Internship, I hope that I can empower, inspire and educate my audience while building confidence in those I am educating so that they can do the same to others."

Hailey Riter of Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, hopes she is able to spread awareness about Israel in her community.

"I want my peers, and the rest of my community to feel educated not only about the conflict, but also on how much of an impact the State of Israel has had on the world in just the few years that it has been around."

Harrison Lieber of Ransom Everglades School in Miami explained why he joined the internship.

"When I returned to the United States after a semester abroad in Israel, I felt like something was missing. I wanted to spread my love for Israel by educating others. That's why I joined StandWithUs."

Contact Rafel at sara@standwithus.com or call the Southeast office in Boca Raton at 561-961-0752 for more information on the organization's work in South Florida.