



A Note From the President

Dear Present, Past, and Future Federation Members,

Concluding a brief organizational hiatus, the Jewish Federation of Huntsville and North Alabama (JFHNA) cordially invites you to a community-wide commemoration of Yom Ha'Zikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, from 4:30 to 7 PM.

Yom Ha'Zikaron is Israel's Remembrance Day for fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. This year, more than most, it is important for us to acknowledge the peril faced by current Jewish hostages and the sacrifice of Israeli soldiers in securing the safety of so many Jews.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebrates Israel's Independence Day, marking the establishment of the State of Israel. This state has not only served as a safe harbor for all Jews, but it has also stood as a beacon of freedom for all its citizens, regardless of religion. Israel's foundational documents and ethos—as well as its well-documented inclusiveness and diversity—can be clearly recognized by any who wish to look beyond the rhetoric of its detractors.

JFHNA has a long and proud history here in Alabama. Its foundational purpose is to enhance Jewish life and continuity locally, in Israel, and throughout the world. We work to generate the financial resources necessary to develop, provide, and support a range of programs and services that help achieve these goals. Our mission includes advancing the welfare of the Jewish community, and planning for its philanthropic, social, cultural, and educational enrichment, while fostering cooperation among Jewish organizations to further these aims.

In recent years, your local Federation has been actively involved in countering antisemitism in our schools; initiating, in cooperation with local districts, high school Holocaust studies courses; sponsoring Shoah essay contests for students; working with IMS to promote interfaith understanding and cooperation; and co-sponsoring numerous events with Temple B'nai Sholom, Etz Chayim, and Chabad.

COVID significantly affected our ability to function, as it did for many volunteer-run organizations. Many of our longest-serving members are no longer able to continue in leadership roles. We now hope to reestablish a meaningful presence in our community—and with your support and involvement, we are confident we can do so.

We hope you will join us on April 30th, and again later this summer as we launch new programs and look to elect new, non-interim JFHNA board members who can serve the Jewish community

of North Alabama for the coming year and beyond.

Chag Pesach Sameach!

Richard Brooks, MD
Interim President, JFHNA