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Dear James,

As we celebrate Passover and its message of our people's resilience, we cannot ignore the unsettling reality unfolding on college campuses across the country.

Our thoughts are with Jewish students and faculty who are facing harassment, intimidation and blatant acts of antisemitism. The [recent surge of protests on campuses](#) underscores the urgent need to confront the rising tide of misinformation and hatred that threatens the safety and well-being of Jewish students.

**This alarming issue reinforces the pertinence of our work on college campuses to provide meaningful, safe Jewish experiences and empower students to be proud members of the Jewish community.** University of Florida, where many young people from the Palm Beaches attend school, [was home to the largest seder in North America](#) earlier this week, with more than 1,500 students taking part in UF Chabad's seders. We are proud to support the work of UF Hillel, as well as Hillels on campuses across our state, whose work no doubt contributes to the inspiring turnout of proud Jewish students eager to celebrate their traditions and heritage.

**Beyond college campuses, we continue to confront acts of antisemitism in our local community – with [Palm Beach now sadly leading all Florida counties](#)** for incidents targeting Jews. Earlier this week, a disturbing display of hatred surfaced in the form of a swastika carved into a tree along the Lake Trail on Palm Beach Island. We are grateful to the residents who reported it, the Palm Beach Police Department for their swift response and investigation into this act of antisemitism, and the Palm Beach Public Works Department for promptly removing the swastika.

**In spite of these incidents which intend to deter our pride, we are endlessly inspired by the continued involvement of thousands in Jewish Palm Beach.** So many are actively standing up to hatred with strength, resolve and compassion. Hundreds joined together over the last two weeks [to pack and deliver Passover meals](#) to families and seniors in need, and [lead service projects on a global day of volunteerism](#). Hundreds more will celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our Jewish community this past year at our [Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 9](#). Through their actions, our community is leading by example and fulfilling our Jewish values.

Here are some more ways you can take part in this effort:

- **Our Palm Beach Center to Combat Antisemitism & Hatred offers you several ways to combat hatred, including on campuses.** [Click here](#) for ways to report antisemitic incidents, advocate to elected officials and more.
- **Watch CBS12's new [roundtable discussion on antisemitism](#)**, exploring the shocking level of antisemitic sentiment on college campuses. The discussion includes Jo Gon, Executive Director of Federation's Community Affairs, as well as a campus representative for our partner Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach.

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students and a non-Jewish ally at Florida Atlantic University. The episode is also available on the mosaic podcast, on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) or wherever you listen.

Thank you for taking an active role in standing up to hatred and ensuring our community can safely celebrate the beauty of our Jewish traditions.

*Chag Pesach Sameach and Shabbat Shalom,*



Susan Shulman Pertnoy  
Board Chair



Michael Hoffman  
President & CEO

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